THE TIMES 30P

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Millionaire gunman surrenders after mansion siege

John du Pont: eccentric

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

JOHN DU PONT, an eccentric multimillionaire, surrendered last night after the shooting of an Olympic wrestler. Mr du Pont, an expert shot, had barricaded himself inside his Pennsylvania mansion which was surrounded by police marksmen and SWAT teams.

Mr du Pont, 57, who has a history of violence and homosexuality, is suspected of killing David Schultz, 36, a wrestling champion who lived in the grounds of Mr du Pont's 800-acre estate. Mr du Pont employed him as a coach at a wrestling centre on his Foxcatcher estate at Newtown Square, near Philadelphia.

When the police siege entered its second night on Saturday, negotiators had allowed Mr du Pont to get some sleep. They resumed telephone discussions with the suspect after giving him a "wake-up" call yesterday at 9.45am.

Officers had guarded all entrances to the nine-bedroom house, including its labyrinth of tunnels. Sergeant Brian McNeill, of Newtown police, said before the surrender: "He holds hundreds of guns and machineguns. He taught every one of us to shoot. He's good." The police knew of no motive for Mr du Pont to attack Mr Schultz.

The shooting happened on Friday afternoon outside Mr Shultz's house on the du Pont estate. Mr Schultz was hit once in the arm and twice in the chest by rounds from a .38 revolver. The shots were heard by Mr Schultz's wife, Nancy, who was inside the house. She hurried outside, whereupon Mr du Pont allegedly pointed a gun at her. She went back inside and called the police, then stepped outside again to witness Mr du Pont fire the gun again at her husband's body. A bodyguard who was with Mr du Pont stayed at the scene of the shooting. He was interviewed by police but was not suspected.

The du Pont house, with its colonnaded facade, is a copy of the Virginia home of James Madison, fourth President of the United States, who held office from 1809 to 1817. Mr du Pont has lived alone in the house since the death in 1988 of his elderly mother, Jean.

The house's telephones were not working, after two unexplained fires last year, so engineers hooked up an emergency line to the house. In a series of conversations, police negotiators had encouraged him to surrender peacefully. At 9pm on Saturday night Mr du Pont told them that he wanted to go to sleep. The negotiators accepted his request, Lieutenant Lee Hunter, a police spokesman, said to enable negotiations to be conducted "on a better line". The house had no heating, but electricity and water were not cut.

Martha du Pont, sister-in-law of the suspect, said of the scene at the house earlier yesterday: "It's like a Howard Hughes scenario. You're dealing with someone who is somewhat mentally ill. We've been watching it for some time and it's really scary." Her brother-in-law liked to be addressed as the Dalai Lama, she said, and had once told a farmer who was moving stones on the estate to replace them "because the rocks were talking to him and did not want to be moved". Mrs du Pont added: "John is not by personality a violent man. Basically, his real self is a gentle person."

Police were looking out for Mark Schultz, David's brother, after reports that he was on his way to Pennsylvannia seeking revenge.

Eccentric gunman, page 3

Labour fury at 'villain's friend' attack

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, sparked outrage and predictions of the dirtiest general election campaign in modern history last night after branding Labour the villain's friend.

He enraged Labour leaders as he tried to extend Tory charges of hypocrisy against the party, made during last week's dispute over the school Harriet Harman's son is being sent to, to its stance on law and order.

John Major intends to build on the theme in a speech in London tonight. But Mr Heseltine's gibe prompted Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, to condemn his "preposterous" remarks and to predict a year-long onslaught of smears, lies and dirty tricks.

The latest sign of increasing bitterness came as Tony Blair prepared to announce plans today for brighter children to flourish within the comprehensive system as he tries to regain the initiative for Labour after the Harman row.

In a speech at Southwark Cathedral in south London in which he will try to retake the high ground on education, Mr Blair will indicate Labour backing for the general introduction of "accelerated learning". The scheme would allow children to move up to a higher age group for subjects in which they are doing well, for the best teachers to be sent into schools with the poorest academic records and for local education authorities to be set performance targets subject to independent monitoring.

But he will find himself under attack from a rejuvenated Mr Major, who in a speech tonight will intensify the attack on Labour double standards which last week gave him his best few days since the 1992 general election. Although going nowhere near as far as Mr Heseltine, he will tell a Conservative audience that Labour's hypocrisy on education — saying one thing and doing another — is matched by its record on law order: calling for tougher action to fight crime and voting against measures brought forward to tackle it.

Mr Major will say that the gulf between the political parties on law and order is wide, "an area where Labour's words are completely divorced from Labour's actions". He will cite Labour's refusal to support plans to give the Attorney-General the right of appeal against lenient sentences, the crackdown on bogus asylum seekers and secure training centres for young offenders as examples of where its rhetoric has not matched its voting record.

Mr Heseltine's outburst came in an interview on *The World this Weekend* on BBC Radio in which he said Labour was "on the side of the villain". In a gibe at what he called Labour's hypocrisy on crime, Mr Heseltine said: "Labour today is saying it wants to be tough on crime, but it votes against all the things the Conservatives have done to achieve one of the fastest falling crime rates we have seen in this country for many years. Labour traditionally is on the side of the villain, whereas the Tories are on the side of the victim.

"When we have introduced tougher sentencing, have questioned the right to silence, have increased maximum sentences — every time, Labour votes against these things."

Mr Brown said: "All decent-minded people will be horrified that instead of addressing the country's problems with health, education and employment, Mr Heseltine and the Conservatives are descending into personalised attacks, smears and dirty tricks. These have reached a new low with the preposterous claim on law and order that one party is on the side of the villain.

"The public must leave the Conservatives in no doubt that their plan for a dirty election campaign to obscure the real issues will not be tolerated and won't work."

Mr Prescott, campaigning in the Hemsworth by-election, said: "It proves what Labour has always said, that the Tories intend to fight the dirtiest general election campaign ever."

Mr Straw said that Mr Heseltine had "claimed Labour had opposed all measures to increase sentences. He is wholly wrong. In the last two years alone, Labour has called for increased penalties for weapons offences; demanded measures to tackle drug-related crime; and led the way on tougher action against the use and carrying of knives, in the face of initial opposition by Home Office ministers."

In an attempt to move the spotlight from the Harman affair, Labour sources were saying yesterday that a Labour government would not wage war on the grammar schools. Labour's policy is to allow the parents in the areas covered by the schools to decide their future in ballots. But senior figures confirmed that Labour would not trigger ballots from the centre. A ballot would happen only where there was a "significant demand" for one.

The accelerated learning scheme has been pioneered at the The Marches school in Oswestry; under it, children are grouped in sets for different subjects, according to ability and interest rather than age. Pupils can move up to higher age-groups if they are doing well, or move down if they are falling behind.

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Damian Williams, found dead in a derelict building which police had failed to search

Snow boy found frozen

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A BOY aged five froze to death 200 yards from his home after going missing while building a snowman.

The body of Damian Williams was found yesterday in a derelict building, 24 hours after he was last seen outside his mother's house in Aubrey Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

The building was not searched on Saturday, even though 50 police officers combed the area and Damian was known to play in local alleyways. His body was found in the snow-covered backyard of a boarded-up Victorian house in neighbouring Egerton Street.

Police teams had concentrated on local parks and shopping centres. It was only yesterday, after Damian had been missing overnight, that search teams were ordered into empty buildings. Detectives believe the "lively" youngster could have climbed into the boarded-up building and been trapped by the height of the gate latch. The gate was closed, but not locked. Damian was last seen by his mother Patricia, 25, on the pavement outside her home at 11am on Saturday.

Damian's mother

Neighbours later reported seeing him playing with friends at 2pm, and he was spotted running alone at 7.30pm. Fears for his safety grew when searchers found a trail of blood in the snow on the corner. Police dogs and an aircraft were used in the search.

Mrs Williams, a mother of four, was being yesterday comforted by friends and family. She is separated from Damian's father, Edward Bunney. Last night a bunch of red carnations was laid on the doorstep of the derelict house, with a message reading: "Damian — you will always be in our hearts and minds for ever."

British soldiers killed by mine in Bosnia

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

THREE British soldiers were presumed dead last night after their armoured vehicle hit a landmine in an area of unmarked minefields. They were patrolling a swath of territory to be transferred from the Muslim-Croat federation to the Serb Republic.

The soldiers, serving with the Nato peace implementation force in Bosnia, were on patrol west of Mrkonjic Grad. Attempts to rescue them with helicopters were hampered by bad weather and the danger of more unmarked mines. Soldiers in another vehicle with the patrol were unharmed.

The Dayton peace accord obliged the warring factions to submit data on the placing of all mines by January 19. Yesterday's accident was in a field that was left unmarked.

Officers at the British headquarters in Gornji Vakuf said they did not know who was responsible because the front line had changed hands several times during the 3½-year war. The former warring factions reported the presence of 1,500 mines in the area under British control, according to Major Steven Kilpatrick. But he said: "We were not given any records of any minefield in the area of this incident."

This is the fourth mine accident that British soldiers have been in since Nato took charge of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia last month.

☐ Three mass graves have been identified within a few miles of the American detachment of Nato forces near the town of Vlasenica in Bosnia. Hundreds, possibly thousands of people, were killed in Serb-held Vlasenica, the site of the Susica detention camp where the United Nations war crimes tribunal estimates 8,000 Muslims were interned. The camp commander has already been indicted.

One witness recalled bodies stacked like logs and another described a lorry-load of soldiers shouting: "There you are, dead Muslims. Soon there will be more of you."

Mass graves, page 8
Leading article, page 17

"I suppose we could win the Lottery and borrow the rest"

Council tax is to rise by up to 93%

BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL Tax increases of more than three times the level of inflation for millions of householders are to be confirmed shortly, with London and other urban areas facing even steeper rises.

The likelihood of massive rises in bills, in spite of plans by most authorities to cut services and freeze recruitment and maintenance contracts, is causing deep concern in the Labour leadership as well as the Government. With Labour controlling much of local government, ministers are poised to denounce the rises as evidence that when the Opposition gains powers it lets spending soar. Tony Blair has headed the calls by senior Labour figures for restraint.

However, the growing concern of ministers is that the Government, rather than the councils, will get the blame for wiping out more than half the gain from Budget reductions in income tax. The steepest threatened rise so far is in the London Borough of Southwark, where residents have been sent a letter warning of increases ranging from 32 per cent to 93 per cent.

Labour calculates that the average 8 per cent increase in council tax forecast by the Goverment is the equivalent of ½p on income tax. Householders in the many areas facing a rise of more than 10 per cent, will find that the 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax announced in last year's Budget

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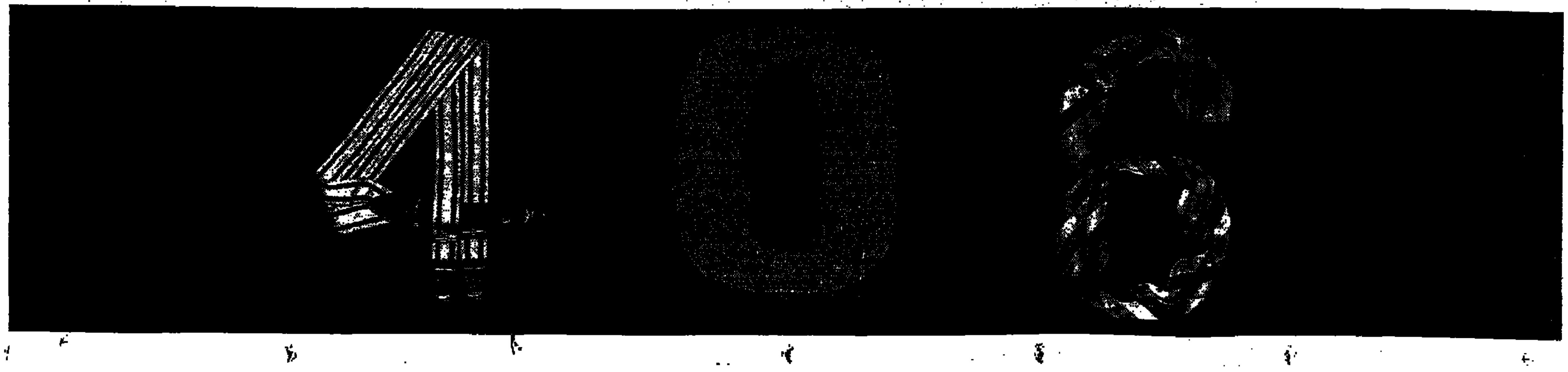

Dublin Government 'will not be treated in that manner in future'

Spring accuses Major of divisive tactics

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

IRELAND'S Deputy Prime Minister attacked Britain yesterday for its dealings with Dublin over the peace process. In his harshest comments in months, Dick Spring accused Britain of spreading rumours that he took a harder line on Northern Ireland than John Bruton, his Prime Minister. He described this as "an old British tactic" of "divide and conquer".

Mr Spring voiced Dublin's anger with John Major for proposing elections in the Province without fully consulting the Irish Government. He told Irish Radio: "We will not be treated in that manner in the future. We are a sovereign Government dealing in international relations."

His comments came as British ministers prepared for a series of critical meetings this week to allay nationalist fears about Mr Major's election proposal. The Prime Minister will tomorrow tell John Hume, the SDLP leader, that his proposal would not herald a return to a Unionist-dominated, Stormont-style assembly. Mr Major will also say that an elected body would provide the only forum for all-party talks if the IRA continued to refuse to disarm.

Senior Anglo-Irish officials will also meet tomorrow to prepare for a full Anglo-Irish Conference in London on Thursday between Mr Spring and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Mr Spring said yesterday he would tell Sir Patrick that elections were "not on at this time". He added that the best way forward lay in the recommendation in the Mitchell report that political parties should sign up to six confidence building measures. These include a commitment to renounce violence.

Mr Spring said: "Let us get to all-party talks. Let the Unionist parties in Northern Ireland come to the table with the Irish Government and put forward their views and their proposals in relation to how they see an election being part of this process."

His comments were echoed by Mr Hume, who rejected Mr Major's election proposal. In an interview on ITV's *Dimbleby* programme, the MP for Foyle said Mr Major had shifted the goalposts in a bid to delay all-party talks. However, Mr Hume held out hope when he declined to say whether he would boycott elections. "Until I talk to [Mr Major] in detail and get a detailed notion of what he is on about I am not going to get into setting down guidelines."

Sinn Fein also sounded a more conciliatory note yesterday when Martin McGuinness said the party would consider Mr Major's election proposal. His comments contrasted with remarks by Gerry Adams, who said on Friday that Sinn Fein was "implacably" opposed to it.

Asked on BBC1's *On the Record* programme whether Sinn Fein would take part in elections, Mr McGuinness said: "I think that is an option which will have to be considered by the Sinn Fein leadership along with others. We will do that in due course." The leading Sinn Fein member, who later addressed a rally in Londonderry commemorating the 24th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, stressed that his party was not opposed to elections.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, insisted that Sinn Fein and the IRA would have to build trust either by disarming or by standing for election. Asked on *Dimbleby* whether he would talk to Sinn Fein in an elected body before the IRA had disarmed, Mr Trimble said: "If the necessary conditions were met, yes."

☐ Judges in Northern Ireland have protested to the Lord Chancellor over a move to withdraw their police bodyguards. Unionist MPs and some government ministers have also been warned that their RUC escorts and armoured cars will no longer be available from early March.

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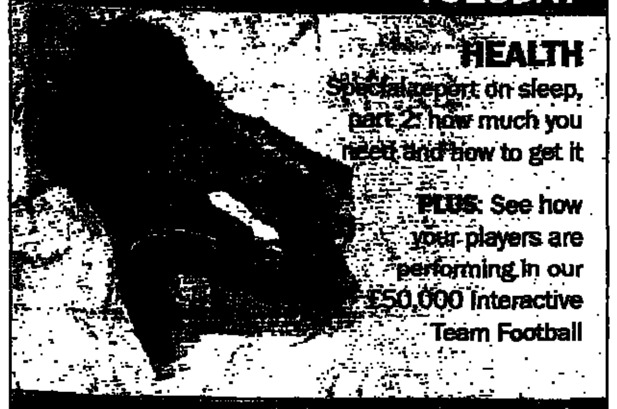

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Special report on sleep, part 2: how much you need and how to get it

PLUS: See how your players are performing in our £50,000 Interactive Team Football

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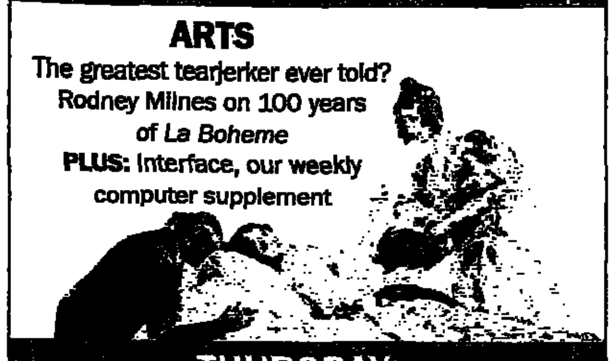

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The greatest tearjerker ever told? Rodney Milnes on 100 years of *La Boheme*

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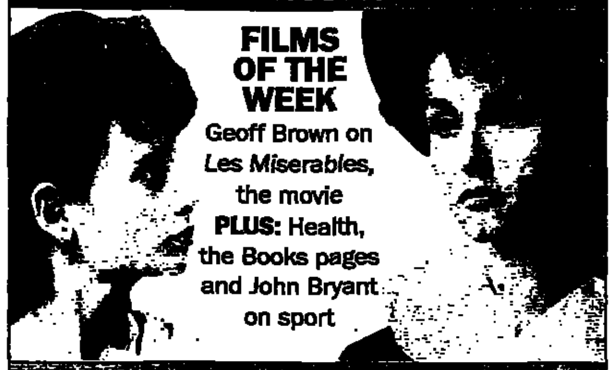

FILMS OF THE WEEK

Geoff Brown on *Les Miserables*, the movie

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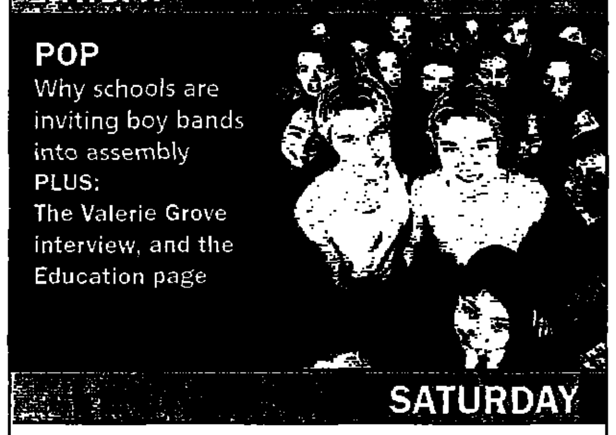

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Why schools are inviting boy bands into assembly

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The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

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MONEY GUIDE

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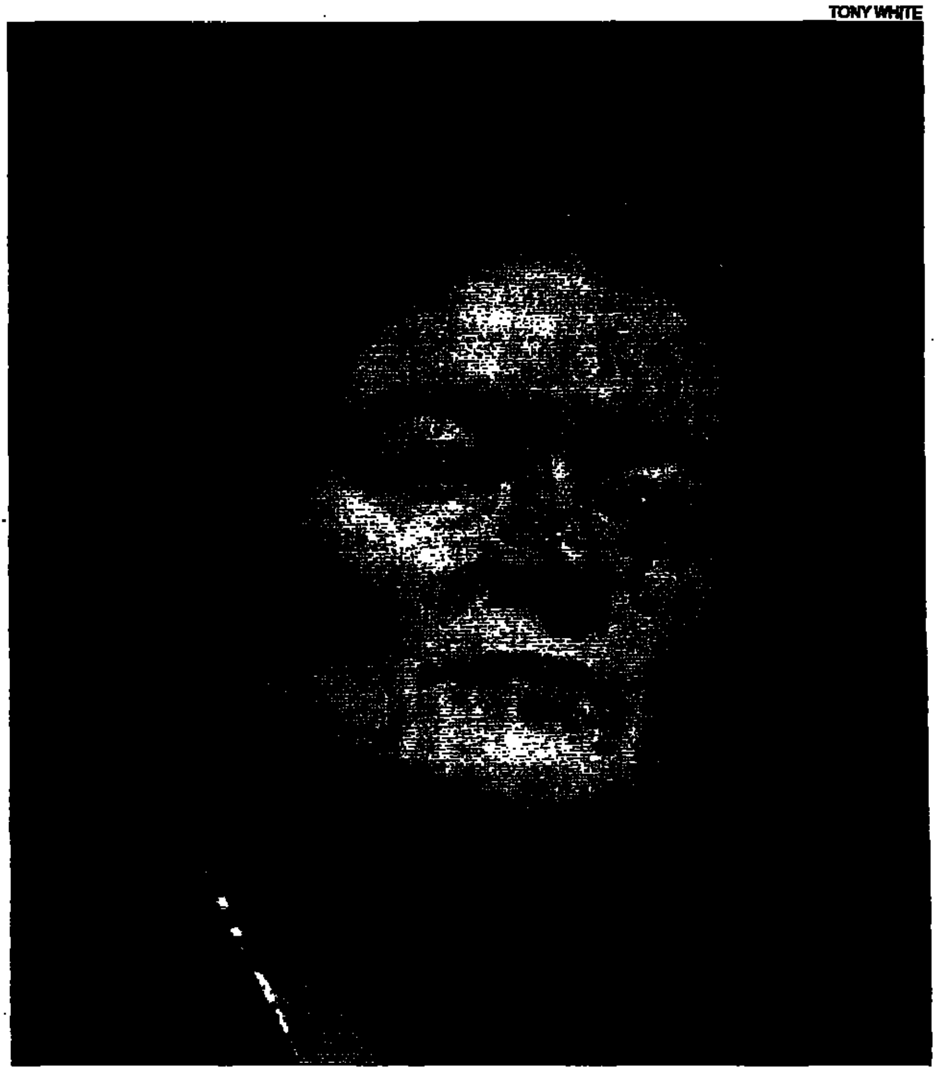
EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: BARGAIN BREAKS WITH OUR PASSPORT TO EUROPE

Labour MP attacked for naming Sara Keays and child

By Richard Ford and Frances Gibb

TONY WHITE



Sara Keays: fighting for education of daughter who suffered brain tumour

LORD DONALDSON, a former Master of the Rolls, said yesterday that the publication of a parliamentary motion identifying Sara Keays and her daughter in breach of a High Court "gagging" order would cause further damage to the courts.

Lord Donaldson spoke out as Conservative backbench MPs criticised Brian Sedgemore for tabling a motion that once again put the power of MPs in direct conflict with the courts.

They accused Mr Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, of an abuse of parliamentary privilege in tabling a motion in the face of a blanket ban on all publicity relating to Flora Keays, the daughter of Lord Parkinson, the former Cabinet Minister and Conservative Party chairman.

The Early Day Motion, published on Saturday, states that: "This House calls for a change in the law to prevent a gross denial of human rights as in the case of Sara Keays and her daughter, Flora Keays." It adds that they "have been subjected to the imposition of a Mary Bell order, a blanket gag on all publicity relating to a child who has fought a magnificent battle against the adversity of a brain tumour, frequent fits, eventual surgical removal of the tumour and a lengthy recuperation".

It says that "the mother has every right now to fight for proper educational provision for her daughter, using publicity to pursue her cause".

The court order is of the same kind imposed on the media to protect the current identity of Mary Bell, convicted in 1968 of the manslaughter of two children in Newcastle upon Tyne, when she was 11 years old. She was released from Askham Grange prison in Yorkshire in 1990, changed her name and lives in northern England with her husband and young daughter.

Although Conservative MPs privately condemned Mr Sedgemore's move, they accepted that parliamentary privilege meant he was not in contempt of court. However, many claimed he had abused parliamentary privilege by tabling the motion while a court order was in place.

Lord Donaldson of Lymington said: "When you get someone doing something like this in Parliament it is not a contempt of court. It may be considered highly unusual but Parliament is a law totally unto itself and the courts would not pay any attention to what happened there."

He said there was no direct conflict but gave warning of the dangers of Mr Sedgemore's action. "Part of our unwritten constitution is that the courts respect the authority of Parliament but Parliament also respects the authority of the courts. If people do this sort of thing you are going to tear the whole thing down."

One backbench Tory MP accused Mr Sedgemore of a complete abuse of parliamentary privilege by tabling the motion in order to circumvent a High Court ruling. "It is scandalous that a Labour MP can stoop so low. It is an abuse of privilege and clearly he should be called to account for that."

His action, although unusual, is not unprecedented. One High Court judge questioned the wisdom of the move as a device to avoid contempt of court laws in a situation where the Court of Appeal had ruled publicity was not in the interests of Miss Keays's daughter.

David Pannick, QC, an expert on constitutional issues, said: "As I understand it, if an MP puts down certain matters on an order paper, then that is not a breach of any injunction because the courts would not purport to govern what is done in the Houses of Parliament. It is a matter for Parliament, and MPs are answerable to Parliament for such actions."

He said the device of using the cloak of parliamentary privilege to circumvent an order of the courts had been done before, in case of *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer, which was banned from publication in Britain.

Bennett's 'Madness' scoops awards

Alan Bennett's film, *The Madness of King George*, won awards for best screenplay and cinematography at the Evening Standard Film Award held in London last night.

Jonathan Pryce won the best actor award for his performance as Lytton Strachey in *Carrington*. For the second year running, Kristin Scott-Thomas was named best actress, this time for *Angels and Insects*.

The most promising newcomer was director Danny Boyle whose debut film *Shallow Grave* was the most successful UK production at the box-office over the past year. Lewis Gilbert, the director, whose films include *Reach For The Sky*, *Carve Her Name With Pride* and *Educating Rita*, received a special award in recognition of his contribution to British film-making.

Pay gap persists

The Equal Opportunities Commission is marking its 20th anniversary with a campaign to narrow the pay gap between men and women. Male employees earn 20 per cent more on average than women in spite of the progress towards equality achieved over the past two decades. The problem is marked among part-time workers. The commission is to issue a code of practice to help end discrimination.

Arctic gold hunt

A British geologist is to lead a team of researchers to prospect for gold on the Svalbard archipelago, off the Norwegian coast near the North Pole. Dr Steve Staley, 35, from Church Broughton, Derbyshire, is selling shares in a company called Cold Gold to raise £100,000 for the expedition this summer. He believes analysis of sediment from streams will point to large underground deposits in the remote islands.

Pilots delayed

David Belcliffe and Tony Richards, the British pilots who are flying a 50-year-old Tiger Moth to South Africa on a route pioneered by Alan Cobham in 1926, have reached Brindisi in Italy. Take-off on their next leg was delayed yesterday by poor visibility in Rome and slow paperwork at their fuelling stop in Salerno. Today they hope to take their plane, *Skippy*, as far as Preveza in Greece.

Barton'ws back

The classic radio detective series, *Dick Barton, Special Agent!*, is being brought back on Radio 4. The pilot show, which features Dick's son and is to be called *Richard Barton, General Practitioner*, is written by Lol Mason, son of the original writer, Edward J Mason, who also created *The Archers*. Richard Vernon plays Dick Barton and Robert Bathurst is his son in the pilot, which will be recorded next month.

Lottery winners

Three of the four winners of this week's £40 million National Lottery jackpot came forward yesterday as two bishops joined the Prime Minister in arguing that the lottery was not harmful. The Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, said it was "pantomime fun" and the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stancliffe, said the churches' criticisms of greed had missed the public mood.

Winning numbers, page 20.

Thaw offers only brief respite from snow and freezing wind

By Stephen Farrell

ICY roads and bitter easterly winds will continue to cause misery for days in spite of a thaw in some areas, forecasters said yesterday. Snow flurries and 35mph gusts are expected, with black ice making roads hazardous.

More cold weather benefits are expected to be triggered around the country today. Since November social security offices have made 3.7 million payments totalling £32 million. Last winter just £77,000 was paid.

Braemar and Aviemore already qualify, and forecasts of sub-zero temperatures mean more are likely to receive the £8.50 weekly benefit. It is made to three categories of income support claimants: pensioners, disabled people and parents of children under five. One of the worst-hit areas yesterday was the Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan, and parts of Gwent. Frozen power cables left 900 households without electricity yesterday morning, only hours after the end of a four-day blackout.

"Power lines normally the thickness of a finger are now the size of a toilet roll and the extra weight has brought down cables and snapped poles," South Wales Electricity said. "Workmen have been out until 1am in temperatures of -17F. The conditions are appalling, with freezing fog so we cannot even fly in helicopters with generators."

In northeast England engineers reported milder weather with only "isolated" pockets of Co Durham and Yorkshire without power. The AA mobilised every available patrol vehicle to tackle twice its normal number of Saturday calls. "We are not expecting an improvement until Wednesday," it said.

One woman died and another was seriously injured as they walked along the M1 hard shoulder near Haigh, West Yorkshire. Their vehicle had skidded on ice and they were seeking help when a Rover went out of control and hit them before prompting a multiple pile-up in which nine others were hurt. A fire engine also lost control on the icy carriageway.

A man died when his car went into the River Lea in north London. Divers worked in vain to pull him from the freezing water. Two firemen were treated for exposure.

The weather caused an increase in admissions to casualty departments around the country. Glasgow Royal Infirmary said: "We are 50 per cent up on admissions, with mainly fractures." Orthopaedic referrals to casualty were up by 50 per cent on Saturday at Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham.

The thaw brought little relief: in London firefighters received 1,500 calls as a result of burst pipes.

The weather had benefits for some, however. Birdwatchers were out in force in search of rare migrants. Among the birds being seen in much greater numbers than usual are Arctic redpolls, which arrived in Suffolk about a week ago, and waxwings, sighted on the eastern coast.

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Massive rise ahead for council tax

Continued from page 1

will be more than wiped out. The exact amount the Government believes councils should spend will be published by the Environment Department today and debated in Parliament on Wednesday.

However it is unlikely to vary much from the £44.92 billion announced in the Budget last November when the Government admitted that council tax would have to rise by an average of at least 8 per cent just to maintain services at existing levels.

This year is not intended to be just a one-off blip in the growth of council tax. The Government's own projected figures, issued at the time of the Budget, show that over the next three years council tax is meant to yield an extra £2.8 billion — equivalent to 1½p on income tax.

The expected increase, the largest since the council tax replaced the poll tax, comes after a 5.4 per cent average rise last year, when the average tax bill of £499 was £25 higher than in 1993-94. This year the average council tax for the country is likely to be around £540 — an increase of about £40.

However, few areas are close to the average and there will be wide regional variations. The impact will be particularly hard felt in London, where the government grant has been reduced in 13 of the 33 authorities. This has widened the gap between the grant and the amount the boroughs can spend for the second year running and it means that most councils can maintain services only by increases of at least 15 per cent.

The Association of London Government calculates that inner London boroughs face an average 16.4 per cent increase — the equivalent of £100 on a Band D property. The London situation has been exacerbated by the phasing out this year of transitional relief granted to cushion the effects on more expensive properties of the switch from poll tax to council tax.

In Liverpool, which levies the highest council tax in Britain, Harry Rimmer, the leader, is thinking of freezing payments at last year's levels. "We are allowed only a 4 per cent increase and if we agree that, it will still mean we have to cut services costing £35 million from our budget," he said. "If we decide on a freeze it will only mean cutting a further £4 million and people might prefer to put up with that rather than face a further rise in their very high council tax."

In Sheffield, which has set a budget above the cap for the past two years, the council can increase the tax level by only 7.5 per cent. If it does so this will still leave a gap of £35 million between revenue and the expenditure needed to maintain present services.

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Family 'frowned on wrestling'

Fanatic who had money to indulge his bizarre tastes

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

The ancestor: Eleuthère du Pont de Nemours

JOHN Eleuthère du Pont, the multimillionaire barricaded in his Pennsylvania home yesterday after the shooting of an Olympic wrestler, is a great-great-grandson of the brilliant young entrepreneur from whom he takes his second name.

When the French Revolution began in 1789, Eleuthère du Pont de Nemours was a 17-year-old chemist at the royal gunpowder mills at Essone. He emigrated to the New World and, noting the poor quality of American explosives, founded a gunpowder factory in Delaware.

That venture created the basis for one of the historic family fortunes of the United States. Du Pont is one of those recurring names in American society, such as Rockefeller, Vanderbilt or Ford. Du Ponts are benefactors and achievers, they make things happen and their names adorn public works committees and high season party lists. They can be found in the old East Coast states such as Virginia, Delaware and the Carolinas, and they are rich.

The family money, which so many used for philanthropy, allowed Mr du Pont to indulge his bizarre tastes and amateur pursuits. One of them was a fascination with explosives.

Mr du Pont is a man of near-obsessive hobbies, from seashells to assault vehicles. He built a museum in Delaware to house his collection of stuffed birds, and his seashell collection exceeds two million in number. He was a fanatical swimmer before he turned to wrestling.

He also supported the police, allowing officers to practise at a shooting range he built in his grounds. Such was his interest in the police that he enlisted as a volunteer policeman.

He was known to report for duty in his private helicopter. He bought bullet-proof vests and radio equipment for the local police station and was on first-name terms with most local officers.

Sgt Brian McNeill of Newtown police said Mr du Pont's connections with the police had helped him to attain the necessary gun permits he needed for his collection of weapons, which included a Gatling gun.

Vicki Welch, a neighbour, disclosed that one Christmas Mr du Pont drove down the street in a tank, popped his head through the turret hatch and calmly asked if her husband wanted to "come and play".

Mr du Pont has in the past said that his relations disapproved of his interest in wrestling and considered the sport unsuitable for a member of such a notable family. "It wasn't a country club sport," he said in a newspaper interview. "Wrestling was thought to be the sport of ruffians."

He ignored their wishes and gave money to support a wrestling programme at a nearby university until the college board became uncomfortable about the generosity he was showing some of the young male athletes.

Mr du Pont's former wife, Gale, disclosed that when married she was threatened by Mr du Pont and reported the matter to the police in Newtown but they took no action. Mr du Pont tried to push her from a moving car, menaced her with a knife and accused her of being a Soviet spy.

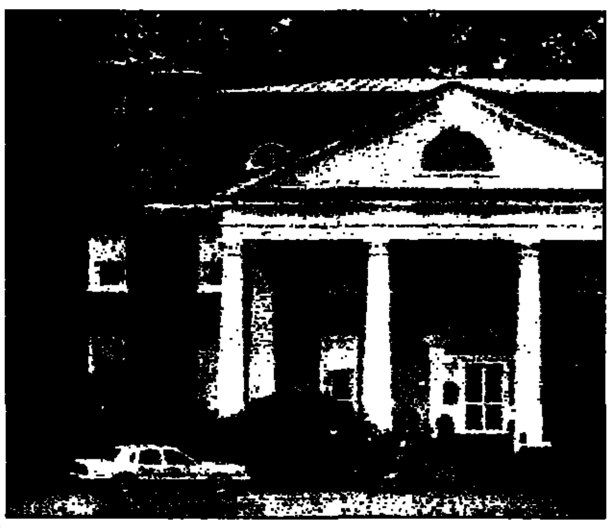
At the time of the complaint, police said Mr du Pont was simply "eccentric", a response they repeated when Dan Chaid, another wrestling coach, reported that Mr du Pont had pointed an automatic rifle at his chest in the gymnasium. "We're talking about a sick guy here," Mr Chaid said. He claimed that Mr du Pont sometimes took cocaine.

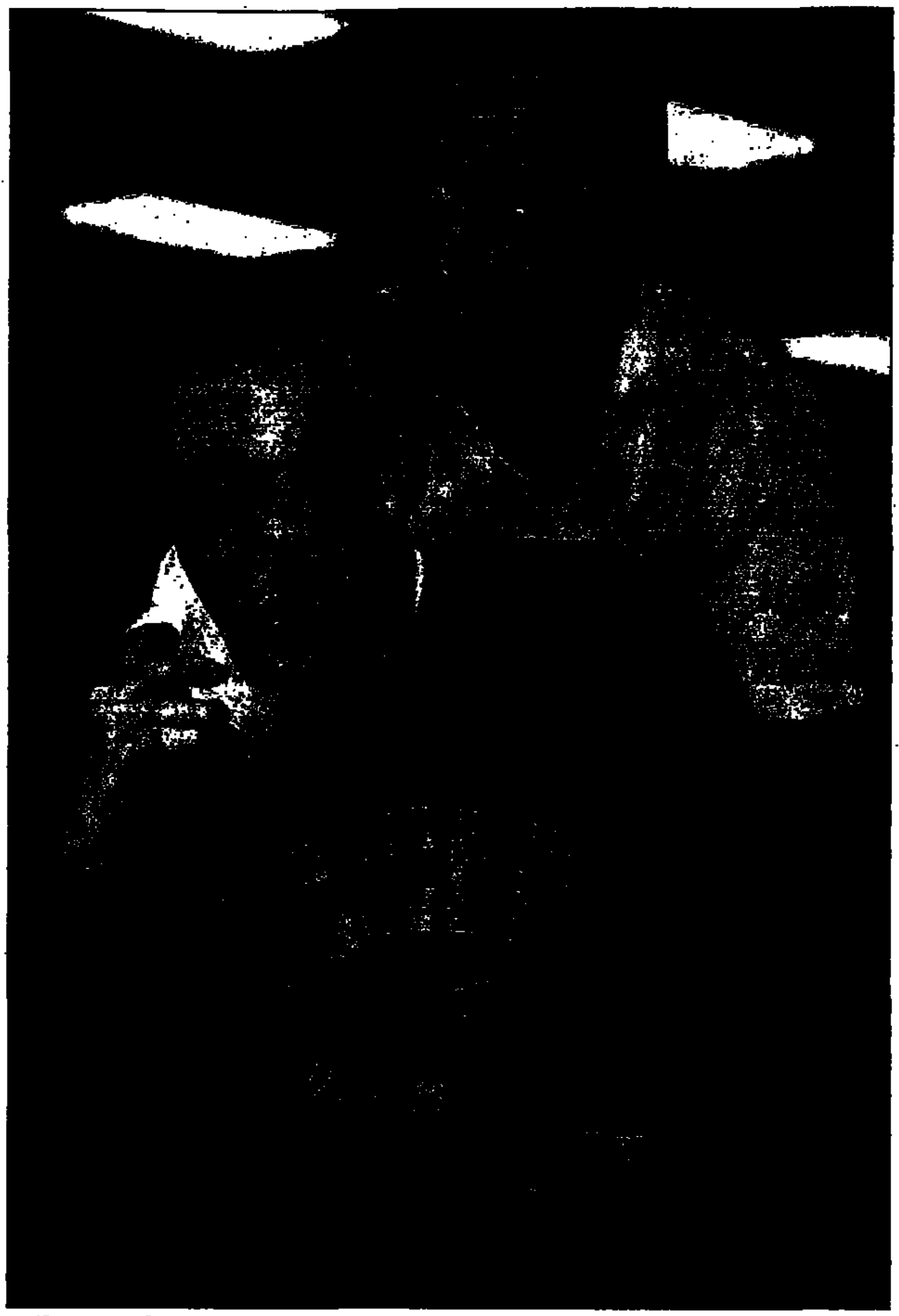
In 1988 Mr du Pont was accused of sacking Andre Metzger, a wrestling coach, because he turned down his homosexual advances. Mr du Pont denied the story. Dan Mayo, another wrestling acquaintance of Mr du Pont, said: "The best thing to do was work hard, keep your distance and win. John helped out a lot of people, but he wasn't the most stable human. You knew it was going to end in some crazy fashion."

Mr Schultz was known for his aggression on the wrestling mat and after taking the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics he was accused of showing "excessive brutality" to his opponents. He replied by saying: "What are they trying to do, turn this into a sissy sport?"

He took Russian language lessons so that he might understand what his rivals were saying to their coaches. Stan Abel, a retired wrestling coach, said Mr Schultz and his brother Mark were such elegant practitioners of the sport that they were "the Michelangelos of wrestling".

John du Pont training for the US Olympic modern pentathlon team in 1966 and, below, his house





Du Pont, front, with David Schultz, the Olympic wrestler who was shot dead outside his home on Mr du Pont's 800-acre estate on Friday

Young master of lieder dismisses his disability

BY DALYA ALBERGE

Quasthoff: "I have a heart that works"

SIR Simon Rattle and Sir Colin Davis are just two of the international musicians eager to work with a German baritone making his London debut this week. The singing of Thomas Quasthoff, 36, has been lauded by the critics, yet his local music college in Hanover had refused to take him on as a student because of his severe physical disability.

Quasthoff was robbed of his arms and growth by the drug thalidomide, prescribed to pregnant women as a cure for morning sickness and later found to have appalling side-effects.

The music college stipulated that singers play an instrument. Rules could not be changed. "That's Germany," Quasthoff said yesterday.

Undeterred, because he had always wanted to be a singer, he read law at university and studied singing privately. He had started voice training at the age of 14, while a boy soprano. "It was my hobby. For other boys, it was football or table tennis."

In the late 1980s, after Quasthoff had won a number of singing competitions, agents were knocking at his door, asking to represent him.

One critic described being moved to tears by Quasthoff's singing of Brahms. Last year, *The Times* wrote: "No singer thinks more carefully than Quasthoff about the words, and few are able to identify as closely and as passionately as he does with the emotions that inspired them."

Disability was "not a problem", Quasthoff said, explaining that he had lived with it for 36 years and drew strength from his family, friends and music. He added: "I live alone. I don't need any help. I'm sure you have a dark side. Everybody does. We are all disabled. My luck is that everybody can see it. I know so many people who have psychological problems or who are only looking for money or a career.

"That is also a kind of illness. My problem is short arms, short legs, but I have a clean mind and a heart which works."

He makes his London debut with a lieder recital at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday, singing Schubert, Richard Strauss and Wolf, accompanied by Charles Spencer. In March, he will be giving a concert at the Barbican Centre in London with the English Chamber Orchestra under Pinchas Zukerman; in August, he will be heard in Britten's *War Requiem*, with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Quasthoff's recordings include Schubert lieder; a review in last September's *Hi-Fi News* spoke of "memorably beautiful singing. What a voice this is!"

Quasthoff is to sing Don Fernando in a recording of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, and a disc of Mozart arias is on the way.

His engagements throughout Europe for the coming year include an appearance with Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Although comfortable about discussing his disability, he tries not to draw attention to it. His publicity makes no mention of it. Quasthoff is a singer who happens to be disabled.

He says of his performances: "I want to sing expressively and take the audience on a journey with me."

Lloyd Webber bemoans 'lack of creativity'

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber criticised British pop music yesterday for what he described as a dearth of imagination and creativity. He lamented the lack of melody and memorable lyrics in every area of popular music from singles and dance hits to musical theatre.

"We are going through a grim period," he said, asking where today's Lennon and McCartney were to be found. "We forget how good a lot of songs were in the Fifties and Sixties. There were so many, we took them for granted."

Sir Andrew is the composer of hits such as *Cats*, which today becomes the longest-running musical on Broadway and in London. It has been seen by 60 million people. They come out humming songs such as *Memory*, whose appeal lies in melody — something lacking in today's pop, he said.

"There's been a turn for the better in the last six months, but not a substantial one," Sir Andrew said. "I don't think there's been a number one in the charts which has really cut through melodically."

He refused to name any band or individual, but chart-toppers in those months included George Michael, Blur and Take That.

He does not keep up with the latest groups, he said, though he does listen to radio chart shows. He dismissed "all those endless dance records", although conceded that the recordings were technically impressive. His concern is most strongly felt in music-theatre. He cannot see any lyricists or composers of note emerging: "We don't seem to have found somebody who'll come forward. I feel I'm working in a vacuum. I can't think of any other time when there has been so little going on."

He acknowledged talents such as Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg, who wrote *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* and who are working on a musical of *Martin Guerre*. "But they are *older* than me. We've got to find *somebody*."

He has discussed with the impresario Cameron Mackintosh the idea of a joint initiative to inspire the next generation to put pen to paper. Even song-writing competitions, he said, had failed to produce a name to watch.

Amanda Harcourt, of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, expressed some sympathy for Sir Andrew's views on dance music: "At 122 beats per minute, it is difficult to tell where one ends and the next begins." She said, however, that the quality of entries in this year's Great British Song Contest, the "British Eurovision", have been "better than for a long time".

Photograph, page 20

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An open letter to the Rt Hon John Gummer MP, Secretary of State for the Environment.

IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE?

Dear Mr Gummer,

We are gravely concerned that the Housing Bill to be debated in Parliament today (29th January) will have harmful consequences for homeless people.

It is proposed to prevent local authorities offering permanent accommodation when they accept homeless households for housing. Instead, families and vulnerable individuals of all ages who have suffered the trauma of homelessness will have to qualify on other grounds of housing need – which could take years. *Surely the people in greatest need are those with no home at all?*

Instead of the security of permanent accommodation, councils will be encouraged to house homeless families in the private sector – even though research shows *this could add up to £118 million to the Housing Benefit Bill* in the first year alone.

While waiting, families in temporary accommodation could find themselves moving as often as every six months. Imagine the damage to children's education if they have to change school each time they move.

Models have been used

Homeless families could wait for years before they get permanent housing

Research by respected academics has highlighted the disruption caused by frequent moves – both to homeless children, and to their classmates too. *Children should not be made to suffer because of a failed housing system.*

When you add up all the factors involved...increased Housing Benefit Bills...the disintegration of families...the destructive effect on children's schooling...the effects on vulnerable people of all ages, it becomes clear that the wider economic and social repercussions of this legislation will be costly and every bit as undesirable as the suffering of homeless people themselves.

We therefore ask you to reconsider. The Government wants to ensure that housing goes to those with the best claim to it. Our experience tells us that these changes are not the best way to achieve that aim. Many of us have met with you and your officials already to discuss your proposals.

We will happily do so again if there is a chance of avoiding the unfortunate consequences of passing the homelessness proposals in the Bill as it stands.

It's still not too late. We ask you to reconsider. For the sake of homeless families now and in the future, *please think again.*

Signatories

Mike Aaronson
Director General, Save the Children Fund
Ann Abraham
Chief Executive, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux
Victor Adebowale
Director, Centrepoint
Andrew Arden QC
Tony Babbage OBE
Chairman, National Housing and Town Planning Council
Jan Burnell
Director, National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations
Cllr. J. Bury
Chair, Social Services Committee, Association of County Councils
Deborah Constable
British Youth Council
Jim Coulter
Chief Executive, National Federation of Housing Associations
Rabbi Tony Dayfield
Chief Executive, Reform Synagogue of Great Britain
Sheila Durston
London Homelessness Forum
Graham Facks-Martin
Chair, National Housing Forum
Jon Fitzmaurice
Director, CHAR – The Housing Campaign for Single People
James Goudie QC
Christine Gowridge
Director, The Maternity Alliance
Sally Greengross
Director General, Age Concern
The Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths
Past President, Methodist Conference
Cllr. Toby Harris
Chair, Association of London Government
Chris Holmes
Director, Shelter
Chris Ingram
Chairman, CIA Group plc
Cllr. Paul Jenks
Chair, Housing Committee, Association of District Councils
Phil Jew
Campaign for Bedsit Rights
Bharat Mehta
Chief Executive, National Schizophrenia Fellowship
Cllr Margaret Moran
Chair of Housing, Association of Metropolitan Authorities
Steve Miller
Social Action – A joint project of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues
Peter Mountford-Smith
Director Specialist Information and Training (SITRA)
Kieran Murphy
Chief Executive, Gingerbread
Mildred Neville
Chair, Churches National Housing Coalition
Gerald Newman
Law Society of England and Wales
Nick Nightingale
National Secretary, National Council of YMCAs
Karin Pappenheim
Director, National Council for One Parent Families
Bill Payne
President, Chartered Institute of Housing
Dinsdale L Pender
Commissioner (The Territorial Commander), The Salvation Army
Jill Pitkeathley
Chief Executive, Carers' National Association
Robina Rafferty
Director, Catholic Housing Aid Society
Les Roberts
Director, ACRE – The Rural Communities Charity
Mark Scothern
Director, Crisis
Roger Singleton
Senior Director, Barnardo's
Mary Smith MBE, BIA, FCIH
President, Housing Centre Trust
Ian Sparks
Chief Executive, The Children's Society
Sue Wald
Chair, Young Homelessness Group
David Warner
Director, Homeless Network
Tom White CBE
Chief Executive, NCH Action for Children
Sally Witcher
Director, Child Poverty Action Group

This advertisement is placed on behalf of a coalition of organisations working for improvements to homelessness proposals contained in the Housing Bill:
Action for Communities in Rural England • Age Concern • Association of County Councils • Association of District Councils • Association of London Government • Association of Metropolitan Authorities • Barnardo's

Schoolgirl 'bride' defies court order to return home

Sarah: had second meeting with "husband" in prison

By Carol Midgley

SARAH COOK, the Essex schoolgirl who illegally married a Turkish waiter, has been allowed a second private meeting with him in jail after defying a High Court order to return to Britain.

Sarah, 13, who has denied reports that she is six weeks pregnant, visited the prison in southeast Turkey where Musa Komeagac, 18, faces charges of statutory rape, on Saturday.

Senior British diplomats are putting pressure on Sarah's mother Jackie to persuade her daughter to come home. She was made a ward of court on Wednesday by the High Court, taking responsibility for her welfare away from Mrs Cook, 37, and her husband Adrian, 42, and ordered to be returned to Britain "forthwith".

The Family Division of the High Court is due to meet again to reconsider the case today, when Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, will hear a report from Essex social services.

He will also hear from the Official Solicitor, who has been appointed to look after Sarah's interests, and may call Mr Cook, who is still at the family home in Braintree, to explain his daughter's absence.

The judge can make a decision or give the social services another seven weeks to complete a full report. The existing order is not enforceable in Turkey and the judge may ask the Foreign Office to make official representations to the Turkish Government or ask the police to approach their counterparts in Turkey.

The situation is complicated because Sarah is a witness in Musa's case, which has been adjourned until February 15, when he could be sent for trial at a later date. The local law association will meet in the Maras region tomorrow to work out the legal implications of the case, which is unprecedented.

Mrs Cook, with Sarah in Turkey, is still her legal guardian there but not in England, where the court is responsible. She initially gave permission for the marriage but has been trying to get her daughter to change her mind. She says her daughter is happy and appears unwilling to make her do something against her will.

In a public show of defiance yesterday, Sarah kissed the Koran to reiterate her love for her adopted country. Locals have likened Musa and Sarah to Romeo and Juliet and are mobbing her as she walks through the town. A group of Turks calling themselves the Tolerance Movement laid a bouquet of carnations in front of the British consulate in Istanbul and urged that Sarah be allowed to stay.

On Saturday night the Turkish authorities granted Sarah a 25-minute meeting with Musa in Aksu prison, three miles from Kahramanmaras where she is staying with his family. She was accompanied by her mother. On Friday night, Sarah and Musa met for the first time since he was remanded in custody last Monday.

Turkey's Ministry of Justice said the British High Court order had, as yet, no validity in Turkey. To prove that Sarah was a ward of a British court and required to return to Britain, the British Government would have to open a case in Kahramanmaras which could take weeks or months.

Aslan Yildirim, the Turkish provincial governor, said: "The child will stay. These two people love each other. Sarah is our bride now."

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "We can't force Mrs Cook to do anything. We can advise her of the judgment made by the Family Division of the High Court."

Musa faces up to five years in jail for statutory rape because the legal age for marriage in Turkey is 15. Asked about rumours that she was pregnant, Sarah said: "I do not want to have a baby until I am at least 25."

Earlier in the day, she was treated like a celebrity in Kahramanmaras when she went for a walk around shops. Mehmet Oztas, a local journalist, said: "Her maturity and the way she is able to answer questions and take everything in her stride has amazed everyone. The local people show genuine affection for her.

"They call her 'the people's bride' and have given her lots of presents, including gold bracelets. Musa is being treated like a king in prison and she has become a local celebrity."

Sarah has said she felt ugly in England and was bullied at school. She flew to Turkey to be with Musa after she met him on holiday last year. The couple went through a marriage ceremony three weeks ago. She has adopted Muslim dress and is not seen in public with her head uncovered.

British police study aggressive techniques used to clean up the mean streets of New York

Howard seeks US inspiration for crime clampdown

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

AN AGGRESSIVE American "can do" style of policing, which has cut crime in New York, is being examined by British forces.

Senior ministers and police officers, led by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, have visited New York to study how the think-positive policy could help to sharpen British police performance. A report is being prepared by a two-man team sent to the city last autumn by Sir Trefor Morris, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

There is particular interest in New York's system of making police commanders answerable for their area's crime-fighting performance at monthly meetings with their superiors.

One British police source said: "In New York they are targeting crime and getting criminals, not accepting it as an endemic disease in society. It is a robust, brisk management technique. The process could work here and get things done."

There was a 17.5 per cent drop in serious crime in New York last year. The homicide rate is at its lowest for 25 years, with 1,182 killings last year compared with 1,582 in 1994. There were 65,000 fewer felonies last year.

In Britain there are 600 to 700 murders annually. Scotland Yard said there were 174 cases of manslaughter and murder in London in 1994-95.

The man behind the changes in New York is Commissioner William Bratton, who took over two years ago. Supported by the Mayor, Rudolph Guiliani, a former district attorney, Mr Bratton has applied corporate techniques used in firms such as General Electric and Johnson & Johnson.

He sent in "re-engineering teams" to examine the force and realised the police were judged by how quickly they responded to crime rather than by how much they prevented. The 38,000-strong force — 10,000 bigger than the Metropolitan Police — now focuses on five core areas: guns, youth violence, drugs, domestic violence and public disorder.

Local police chiefs were asked by how much they thought crime could be cut, and those who considered only small reductions were possible were sacked. This led to a stream of older, middle-ranking officers resigning or taking early retirement, to be replaced by a new breed of younger commanders eager to make the streets safer and push up arrest rates.

They are trying to wrest back areas dominated by drug dealers under a "zero tolerance" strategy which has also seen a clampdown on prostitution in public places, itinerant windscreen washers, drunkenness and "boombox" music systems in cars.

Mr Howard is eager to make police officers more accountable for their crime-fighting performance, but has had to dilute his proposals for performance-related pay. In New York commanders must account for their crime-fighting efforts at meetings where they face Jack "Spats" Maple, the Deputy Commissioner, and their peers for up to three hours.

A Whitehall source said: "Mr Howard was impressed with what has been achieved in New York. A lot of the analysis of crime done there is also done here but the police do not get enough credit for what they are doing."

The team from the inspectorate was led by Dick Monk, a former Scotland Yard commander and now an Assistant Inspector of Constabulary. He and a colleague spent a week in New York, studying how police worked in different precincts. Later this year Brian Hayes, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, will visit the city to seek policing methods that could benefit London.

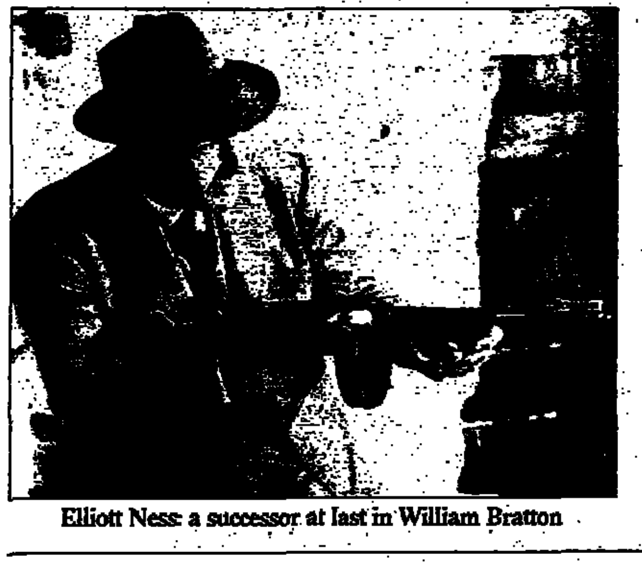
Hotline calls cost £80 each

A telephone line to allow victims of crime to object to perpetrators being given temporary release from jail has had less than one call a day. Last year the line had 238 calls and the bill comes to more than £80 a call. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced the line in 1994 after several prisoners on home leave committed crimes. Harry Fletcher, a probation officers' leader, yesterday urged "real support [for] victims, not the sham of a hotline".

MICHAEL O'NEIL

Commissioner Bratton and two of New York's finest: he likes the intimidating look of the old-style uniforms

Tough guy with ruthless approach to low-lifes and ineffective cops



Elliott Ness: a successor at last in William Bratton

From Quentin Letts in New York

NOT since Elliott Ness and The Untouchables has an American city cop had the public profile of William Bratton, Commissioner of New York police. This slim, intense man with the strong nose and steady gaze has presided over a 27 per cent drop in crime in two years. He has done it by working from the bottom upwards.

Mr Bratton and his Republican boss, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, believe in the "broken windows" theory: if you fix a broken window pane, the building is less likely to be burgled. Adjust this theory to society, and it means you apprehend the petty louts, foul-mouthed punks and mule-headed graffiti artists who make New York life a misery. When the message has got through to these small-time urban low-lifes, the theory goes, it will start to reach the higher levels of the criminal fraternity.

To describe Mr Bratton as a "tough guy" is to underestimate him, although he is certainly a wiry customer who has little sympathy for weaklings and likes old-style uniforms and their intimidating look. He has introduced monthly "Comstat" (computer statistic) appraisals of the city's 76 police precincts. Each area's latest crime rates are measured and examined for trends. Local commanders who fail to show that they are up to speed are fired and, if the Comstat figures merit it, a task force of officers is dispatched to the trouble zone to deal with the problem, clinically and fast.

Mr Bratton, himself a decorated former neighbourhood beat cop, was previously in charge of transport policing in New York and his native Boston. He focused on apprehending fare dodgers on the New York subway, reasoning that they were the muggers of tomorrow. Subway crime was halved and there are now more passengers, a classic example of the Giuliani "quality of life" politics.

Posters in New York police stations remind officers to "Just Ask". In the old days, petty offenders such as drunks and beggars were ignored by the police. Now, officers question them to find out what else and who else they know. Under persistent questioning — "Do you have a gun on you? Are you carrying drugs? Do you know any dealers?" — it is amazing what someone who has been stopped for, say, a motoring offence will admit.

Most of the city's traffic wardens, who had no power of arrest, have been disposed of. Instead, Mr Bratton has deployed a police officer at most major road junctions. The idea is not only to improve traffic flow, but also to make people aware of where they can find the nearest cop.

Complaints about police brutality have increased, to which Mr Bratton responds: "That's too damn bad." Mayor Giuliani came under pressure last week to save money by cutting police numbers. With the murder rate down 39 per cent, the accountants can argue that such a big police force is not needed. It remains to be seen if Mr Bratton can protect his empire.

Meanwhile, the criminal classes have not had it so bad for a long time. From the intinerant car windscreen washers menacing motorists for tips, to the mafia warehousemen running Manhattan's fish market, life on the wrong side of the street has not been much fun since Messrs Bratton and Giuliani hit town.

Soccer scores as new A-level goal

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

DEMAND from schools and colleges has led one of the country's largest examination boards to introduce A levels in football, rugby and cricket.

They are A levels of two halves, split between the candidate's abilities and an academic analysis of sports history, training methods and tactics. Soccer A-level students will be assessed in dribbling, passing, shooting and heading, as well as an ability to analyse games on video.

The Associated Examining Board believes its move will broaden the appeal of physical education in support of a call by the Prime Minister last year for more team-based sports in schools.

PE and sports studies were introduced as A levels ten years ago but the board feared an outcry over standards if soccer and rugby were included. The idea is now felt to have proved itself academically, with general acceptance by universities and almost 15,000 candidates at 600 schools preparing to take the A levels this summer.

Almost one third of the marks for A-level PE are based on the candidate's performance in two chosen sports: one team game and one individual pursuit. The sports-studies A level has a 3,000-word dissertation instead of an assessment of practical skills.

In the soccer syllabus, 40 of the 200 marks available in practical assessment are for skills including dribbling, passing, shooting and heading during a game. A further 30 marks each are for attacking and defensive play. Demonstrating skills individually earns up to 40 marks more. The remaining 60 marks are for an ability to analyse tactics live and on video. All this forms 15 per cent of a final A-level grade.

Seventy per cent of marks will be for academic work on the physiological aspects of sport, exercise and training methods, muscle operation, circulation and energy science, as well as historical, cultural and social studies.

George Turnbull, of the examining board, said: "It is a traditional A level in the sense it is academic. They have got to demonstrate good technique but links are practical to the theoretical, so they have an understanding of what they are doing and why they are doing it. It is not just a case of scoring five goals and getting an A level."

Sport, pages 21-32

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Researchers say society faces growing turmoil as teenagers clash with pensioner parents

Fortysomething fathers 'threaten future of family'

REPORTS BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A SHARP increase in the number of men fathering children in their 40s and 50s is likely to put the family unit under severe strain within the next decade. The prospect of "pensioner parents" who have little understanding of their teenage children, little money to pay for their upkeep, and who may actually need their children to care for them, is worrying social researchers and economists.

Analysis of the latest figures from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys reveals the marked trend towards middle-aged fatherhood. The proportion of children fathered by men in their 40s has grown by 67 per cent in less than two decades.

In 1993, there were 35,257 live births within marriage to fathers in their 40s, compared with only 23,787 in 1977. The figures also record a 44 per cent increase in the proportion of children fathered by men in their 30s since 1976, a rise of 59 per cent for men in their 50s and a 143 per cent rise among over-60s. The increase is more surprising because, at the same time, the number of legitimate births fell from 513,880 to 456,919. Meanwhile, fatherhood among men in their 20s fell by 31 per cent between 1977 and 1993.

It has been almost wiped out among teenagers. In 1966, 18,000 children were born to fathers in their teens. In 1993, the figure was 1,400. The figures relate only to legitimate births and some of the fall can be attributed to the increase in single mothers.

Social changes since the 1970s include an increase in the number of second families as the divorce rate has risen and in the age at which women have children. Patricia Morgan, senior research fellow with the Institute of Economic Affairs, pointed to American research showing children had little understanding of their elderly parents.

She added that women were choosing mature men to father their children because so many young males were unmarriageable. "Certainly in working-class areas, women who get married are often looking for much older men because these are the ones that have a wage packet."

The trend towards older fatherhood coincides with a worrying loss of affluence and security among middle-aged men, raising the question of who will pay for the children. "A lot of middle aged men are being made redundant and you don't inherit," said Ms Morgan. "Men used to be at the peak of their careers in their 50s, whether they were town hall clerks or surgeons. Then you had mass redundancies, particularly getting rid of the older, more expensive worker. This has knocked the economic foundation out of the middle-class family."

Professor Geoff Dench of the Institute of Community Studies feared for a future society, struggling to cope with the cost of an ageing population, where young sons and daughters had to take responsibility for elderly parents. "If the welfare state collapsed, if pensions were worth nothing and a lot of people found they had old dependent relatives, life would be quite hard," he said.

A study of farming families in Ireland, where there is a tradition of late parenthood, had shown severe conflict between young adults and parents too old to contribute to the farm. The children wanted the older generation to die.

Professor Richard Whitfield, a social scientist and honorary chairman of the National Family Trust, said it was undesirable for men over 55 to father children because they had so few working years left to support a family. Adrienne Burgess, researcher for the Institute for Public Policy Research and author of a forthcoming book, *Fatherhood Reclaimed*, said the children of older fathers were often embarrassed by their age.

GILL ALLEN

Tim Keeler with his son, Tom: "My grandson James was excited to see Grandad's little boy, not jealous at all"

More involved second time around

TIM KEELER took early retirement from his job as a bank manager and decided he could cope with a new baby at home. His second wife, Gill, 15 years his junior, wanted to pursue her career in merchant banking.

Mr Keeler, 51, who has an adult daughter and son and a grandson, finds caring for 20-month-old Tom fulfilling. He was 21 when his daughter, Michelle, was born to his first wife, Christine, and 24 when his son, Christopher, arrived.

"My participation then was less than now because Christine was at home looking after the kids while I was out grafting," he said. "I didn't see them develop. With Tom I have a different viewpoint. It is quite a wonderful experience to be with him.

"We went to antenatal classes. I certainly didn't feel out of it. I was at Tom's birth which I wasn't for Michelle. I was very proud. Once a week I look after my grandson James, who is five, and he was very excited to see Grandad's little boy, not jealous at all."

Mr Keeler married again ten years ago, when he was still an ambitious assistant manager and his second wife's career had yet to develop. "I have found the whole thing rather uplifting. You do get situations where for two or three nights in a row Tom is not sleeping too well and you have to get up and comfort him. I find that pretty tiring.

"In ten years' time I'll be in my 60s and Tom will be coming up to 12 and demanding a lot more energetic things from me. I expect one day Tom will wake up and think 'He's a bit past it'. My father lived until his 90s. I'm hoping I have another 30 years or more ahead of me."

Mr Keeler, of Lee, southeast London, has made financial provision for Tom's education. He and his wife are considering having another baby in the next few years but after that would be too late.

"The mid-50s is probably where the line is drawn, not so much keeping up with them when they are infants but when they are in their mid-teens," he said. "If you are in your mid-70s you are perhaps not in the position to give them guidance and help."

'I'm more soppy about my children because I am so old'

THROUGH all his adventures as a young man — living in dangerous and exotic countries as a foreign correspondent and a wartime worker for the United Nations — Bruce Palling never felt the urgent need to be a father. Today, the 46-year-old enjoys nothing better than to wake before dawn to give his 18-month-old son Henry his first feed of the day.

"I always leap in there with his bottle at 6am because it's such a pleasant experience," said Mr Palling, of Notting Hill, west London, whose other son, Cosmo, is three.

He left Australia when he was 22 to explore the world's exciting places. At 23 he was in Laos and at 26 in Africa. He has lived in Thailand, India and America. "I had a very good time living all over the world," he said. "I can't imagine not doing those things. It wouldn't have been possible to have a family, given my lifestyle. Maybe I wasn't mature enough."

Family history suggested, however, that one day he would settle down. "Fundamentally, I always had the notion that I wanted to have children in my 40s because my father and mother had me in their 40s," he said. "All my grandparents were born in the 1860s and 1870s.

"I was never broody as such. I just knew in principle that fatherhood was a good thing. Like a pre-pubescent thinking about sex, you just don't have a notion until it's your turn. I am delighted that I didn't get married in my 20s. I'm more soppy about my children because they are so young and I am so old."

Mr Palling once had to carry the body of a murdered child when he worked for the UN High Commission for Refugees on the Thai-Cambodia border. He now has a quieter life, running the small, upmarket Western & Oriental Travel company.

Mr Palling's girlfriend, Lucinda Bredin, a former deputy editor of *Harpers & Queen*, accepted his proposal of marriage soon after they returned from a holiday in Florence. They had a Buddhist wedding in a friend's garden in Bangkok. She is 11 years his junior.

"The joy of having children when you are older is that you know what you want out of life," he said. "In my 20s or 30s I would have been so worried about missing the next rung on the promotion ladder.

"It's very maturing. I can see why people become more conservative and rooted in material things because you have a real responsibility to look after your children."

Bruce Palling: exploring a new world with his sons

Abbey's 'vulgar' window must go

A Victorian stained-glass window in Sherborne Abbey is to be replaced with a modern design after the vicar, the Rev Eric Woods, campaigned to have it removed. The Court of Arches, the highest church court, dismissed an appeal on Saturday by the Victorian Society to save Augustus Pugin's window, which Mr Woods had said was "vulgar".

William Filmer-Sankey, of the Victorian Society, said: "We are very disappointed. We believe that there is a good case for keeping the window. It is beautiful and important historically." The society may take its case to the Privy Council. Peter Cormack, of the Council for the Care of Churches, said: "Historians are convinced that the window should be retained."

Disabled victim

A disabled man given a 50 per cent chance of surviving surgery to his spine was beaten and robbed of £50 yesterday by three men as he walked home on crutches from a nightclub where he worked. Maurice Castles, 30, from Bitterne, Southampton, was left in agony after the attack.

World record

A record number of listeners are tuning in to the BBC World Service. Audience figures published today show a weekly global audience of 140 million listeners, 5 per cent up on last year's 133 million. The Government is considering proposals to cut World Service funding by £20 million.

Nightclub death

A student found dead in a nightclub toilet may be the latest victim of the drug Ecstasy. Ben Noades, 18, of Boscombe, Dorset, is believed to have taken two tablets of the drug before entering a club in Aldershot, Hampshire. A post-mortem examination is due to be held today.

Deanery raided

Antiques and silver worth over £4,000 have been stolen from the home of the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson. The haul included Victorian silver, cutlery and a French clock. A police spokesman said the theft from the deanery in Eastgate was "a very professional job".

Guard for whales

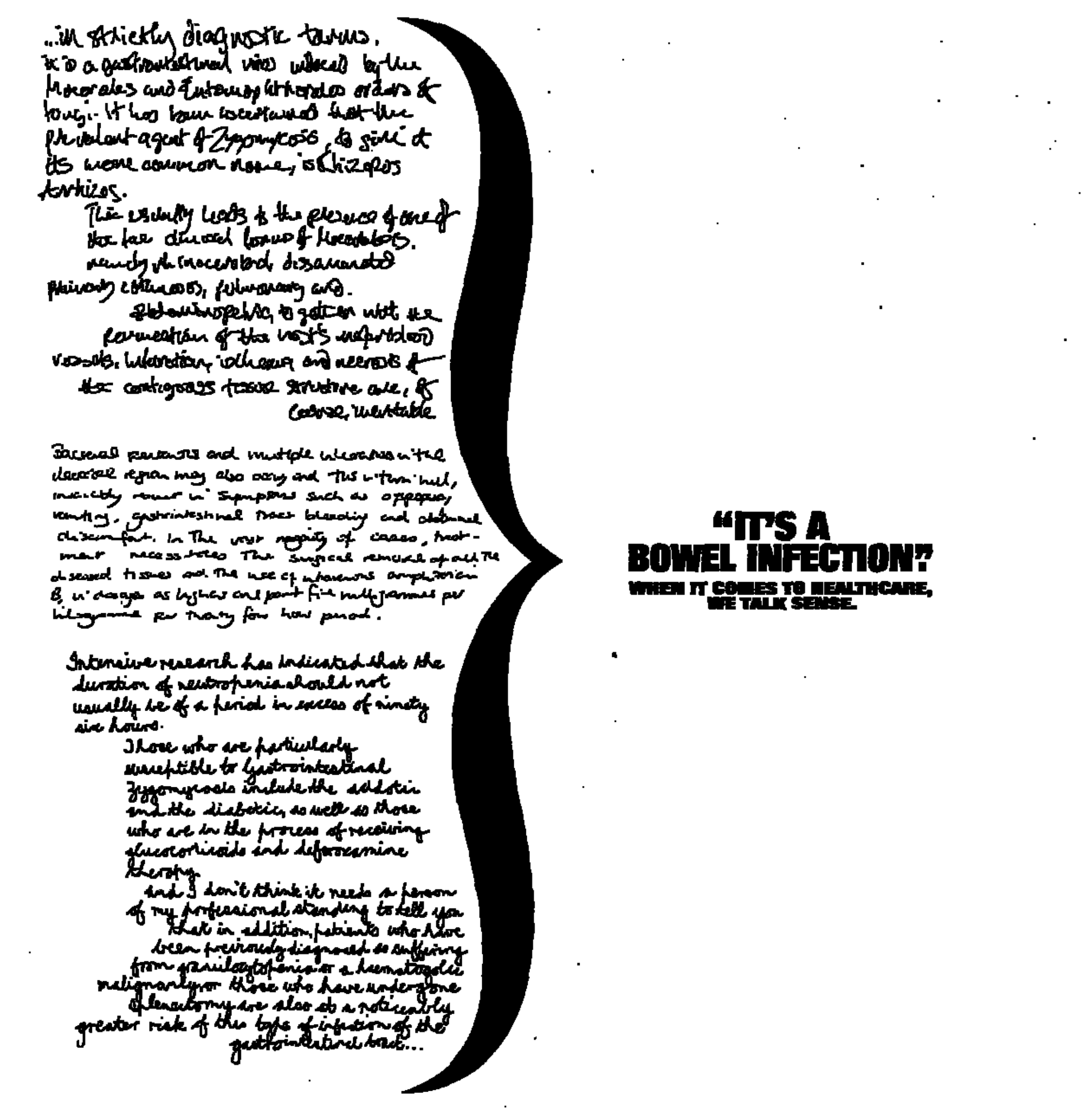
Coastguards last night mounted a security vigil on six sperm whales that died after becoming stranded on Cruden Bay beach, north of Aberdeen, early yesterday. Attempts were made to save one found barely alive but all died. A decision will be made today on how to dispose of the whales.

Royal visit off

A visit by the Princess Royal to British scientists near the South Pole has been cancelled because the aircraft due to fly her there has developed mechanical problems. The Princess was due in the Antarctic after a five-day visit this week to the Falkland Islands, which is going ahead.

Beware otters

Signs warning of otters crossing the road are being erected at various danger spots in the Shetland Islands to try to cut the number being killed by vehicles. The otter colony, which has grown to over 1,000 and is rising rapidly, is increasingly at risk as the animals lose their fear of humans.



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Intensive research has indicated that the duration of neutropenia should not usually be of a period in excess of ninety six hours.
Those who are particularly susceptible to gastrointestinal zygomycosis include the addicts and the diabetics, as well as those who are in the process of receiving glucocorticoids and deferoxamine therapy.
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CSA on the trail of affluent men who claim poverty

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE Child Support Agency is to have new powers to investigate fathers who conceal their wealth in order to pay lower maintenance.

Self-employed men who live in expensive houses and drive costly cars but make low payments because they are modest earners on paper will be required to explain how they can afford their high standard of living.

Mothers who are seeking maintenance will be encouraged to gather evidence about the lifestyle of their former partner to present to the agency.

Critics fear that the new rules will put pressure on second wives because of the difficulty of disentangling couples' assets.

The change is part of the Child Support Act 1995, which is to be laid before the Commons by Andrew Mitchell, a junior Social Security Minister.

The new regulations will for the first time allow officials to depart from the complex formula used to calculate maintenance payments, if there are special circumstances.

A spokesman for the Department of Social Security said that someone who had exceptionally high travel costs to work, which were not allowed for in the formula, could be helped by the regulations.

They will also, however, allow investigations into "re-partnered" men, such as the self-employed and company directors, who seek to avoid paying maintenance by claiming they have little money but still have a good standard of living.

"There has been quite a bit of correspondence from women on this. It is a loophole that ministers want to try to close," the department's spokesman said.

The new powers will work both ways, however. Fathers will be able to apply for a reduction in maintenance payments if they have evidence that their former partner's standard of living is higher than their declared income suggests.

A pilot scheme is planned to begin in Hastings, East Sussex, in April and the system will be introduced nationwide by the end of the year.

Critics of the CSA condemned the move, saying it would be difficult to distinguish a father's assets from those of his new partner. Bruce Liddington, chairman of Families Need Fathers, said: "Anything which brings more flexibility to the way the Child Support Agency works is to be welcomed. But the immoral side of the agency is that it is bringing a third party's income into consideration.

"That may not be the intention, but experience has shown the declared intentions of the agency to be so much nonsense."

Specialist care is key in breast cancer

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

TEN years after surgery, women who have had cancer of the breast treated in a specialist breast clinic by surgeons, pathologists and oncologists with a particular interest in the disease have an 8 per cent better chance of being alive than those treated by a general surgeon working in a non-specialist unit.

The choice of hospital when surgery is necessary can be a life-or-death decision, but although patients are encouraged to complain about an impolite receptionist or the time they have to wait in the outpatients' department, they have no opportunity to question the success rate of the hospital unit to which they are about to entrust their life.

The medical journal the *BMJ* has recently published a survey by the West of Scotland cancer surveillance unit, based at Ruchill Hospital in Glasgow, which has compared the survival of patients with cancer of the breast between those who were admitted to specialist breast units and those dealt with by general surgeons.

It had been thought that the affluent might have better rates of survival. However, the survey carefully classified patients being studied as to their social class, the time when the patient came forward for treatment, the size of the tumour when it was first noticed, and the degree to which the cancer had spread — if indeed it had spread at all.

It was found that even when allowance had been made for each of these factors, it was the skill of the surgeon and the team, as measured by their special interest in breast disease, that was a constant and important factor in determining the outcome of treatment.

The research found there was no difference in the type of patients referred by general practitioners to specialist or non-specialist units, and that it was the treatment that mattered rather than the socio-economic group to which the patients belonged.

In a specialist breast unit, surgeons have the advantage of working closely with pathologists and oncologists who are equally well trained and dedicated. The skill of the pathologists in classifying the nature of the breast tumour, and that of the oncologists in supervising the type and, if necessary, the mixture of drugs prescribed, is also likely to be better developed as a result of more experience in a specialised breast unit.

The research workers from the surveillance unit also excluded the possibility that the advantages of going to a specialised breast unit might reflect GPs' different ways of choosing patients for referral to one surgeon or another; they found that there was in fact no difference in the type of patient referred to either unit.

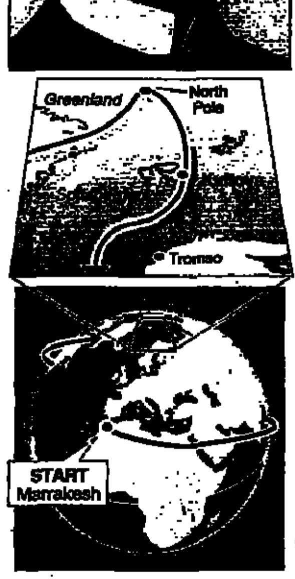
The statistics showed that the advantage of attending a specialist breast unit was particularly important to those women who developed cancer between the ages of 50 and 64. Overall, the chances of survival were improved by 9 per cent five years after surgery, and by 8 per cent ten years later.

Selecting the best medical unit may be as important as selecting the best school but at the moment, most patients are denied this freedom of choice.

Thunderstorms may force Global Challenger to follow route of doomed Swedish adventurer

Branson crew to brave balloonists' Arctic graveyard

By Andrew Pierce



Salomon August Andrée, the Swedish adventurer, took off from Spitsbergen to cross the North Pole in 1897 but was brought down when ice shards ripped his balloon

RICHARD BRANSON and his fellow round-the-world balloonists are preparing to follow the route of pioneering Swedish balloonist Salomon August Andrée, who froze to death in the Arctic almost a hundred years ago.

Emergency plans were drawn up at the weekend by the *Virgin Global Challenger* team to adopt a more northerly route across North America and the Arctic. The route, which is fraught with danger, has been chosen to try to avoid potentially lethal sub-tropical thunderstorms.

After lift-off from Morocco, the balloon will head east across North Africa — if negotiations for permission to enter Libyan airspace are successful. Other countries to be crossed include India and China.

Mr Branson and his crew members, Per Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy, are planning to return to the balloon in Marrakesh later this week. The launch has been delayed because of unusually cold and wet weather in Morocco.

Any plan to cross the Arctic, long regarded as a graveyard for balloonists and aviators, must take into account the possibility of a forced landing. The *Global Challenger* crew spent the weekend studying the final harrowing reports of Andrée's death in 1897. It was one of the most poignant and dramatic incidents in the history of Polar exploration. The frozen remains of Andrée and his two companions, Strindberg and Fränkel, were found in melting snow in September 1930. They had taken off in their 5½-tonne hydrogen balloon from Spitsbergen to fly across the North Pole, but it was torn to shreds by shards of ice which formed when they flew below 21,000 feet.

Mr Branson said: "It will be vital to stay above 21,000 feet. Below that we are vulnerable to the 'supercooled ice droplets phenomenon'. At a certain point they turn instantly to ice when in contact with a particle of dust or dirt. If they hit the balloon they will bring us down. We know about the phenomenon. Andrée did not."

After they came down, Andrée and his colleagues travelled 200 miles in a frail canvas boat over broken ice before their deaths on an island off Spitsbergen. Their bodies were not found until September 1930.

Dr Gunar Horn, a Norwegian explorer who made the grim discovery, wrote: "Strange were our feelings standing on the very beach where valiant Andrée and his companions had 33 years ago made their last halt. In deep silence we went towards the camp, which only too distinctly told us what had happened. There was a boat half buried in the snow with its stem towards the shore. Beside it was a sledge and on the ice some yards further away a piece of black and red cloth with windows, perhaps a piece of tent. And Andrée himself, only recognisable by the monogram on his coat, leaning against the side of the mountain a few yards north-east of the boat. He had worn Polar shoes and was otherwise well dressed.

"We may imagine their joy when they set foot on the island and had firm ground to tread upon and no longer the unpleasant drifting ice. But from Kvito [now Kvitoya, White Island] they could not get away.

"Truly they fought and struggled bravely and valiantly to their very last moment as true sons of the country which fostered them." Their remains were eventually buried in Sweden in 1934.

The Virgin team is undaunted by the prospect of an Arctic landing and has spent last week planning such an event. They have been taught how to build an igloo and the balloon capsule will be loaded with freezing-weather suits and liferafts.

The three men have been taught how to turn their parachutes into rescue signals and each has a search and rescue beacon that broadcasts on the aviation distress frequency.

Mr Branson said: "An Arctic landing is not ideal. It is an option we are looking at seriously. It will give us a greater variety of choices in terms of the jet streams across the Pacific and the Atlantic. Because the weather has been so unpredictable it will give us more flexibility. We have learnt the lessons of Andrée."

Ministry revokes rest periods for shellfish

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

EUROPEAN rules which set the same tough conditions on the transportation of mussels, oysters and winkles as those for veal calves have been blocked by the Government. The regulations required the shellfish to be transported in conditions that "avoid injury, stress and suffering" and to have regular rest periods during their journey.

In addition they had frequently to be sprayed or immersed in water and lengthy travel documentation had to be completed for journeys more than 50km (80 miles).

Shellfish producers faced huge extra costs because of the rules, drawn up by the European Commission in response to public concern about the welfare of live animals on long journeys. The directive applied to livestock and "any other cold-blooded creature of any species".

But after intervention from Angela Browning, the Agriculture Minister, suppliers have been told that the regulations can be interpreted so that they are merely "appropriate for the species concerned".

The problem was brought to the attention of the Government by John Whittingdale, Tory MP for Colchester South and Maldon, whose constituency includes several shellfish producers.

He said: "This is an example of an inflexible regulation, which is dreamt up by unthinking bureaucrats, that has the unintended effect of threatening the livelihoods of large numbers of people for quite clearly ludicrous reasons.

"Everyone supports the idea of having humane regulations to govern the transport of cattle, sheep, and warm-blooded animals, but the idea it could be extended to cover shellfish is patently absurd."

Peter Davidson, owner of Dengie Shellfish in Southminster, Essex, feared his daily loads of crabs, lobsters, winkles, oysters and mussels to and from Billingsgate market in east London would be severely affected. "Because the journey is more like 50 miles than 50km, I would have needed a piece of paper for each of the batches of shellfish to be moved," he said.

"There would have to be rest periods, and rest periods for shellfish would presumably mean putting them in water or damping them down. But because many of my oysters are purified, you are not allowed for health reasons to re-immerse them or spray them again until they are sold. The whole thing is an absolute nonsense."

Mrs Browning said: "The regulations were slipped through at the insistence of other EU member states.It could have been a piece of Euro-nonsense had we allowed it just to go on as it stood.

"What is appropriate for transporting sheep is very different to what is appropriate for transporting a few bags of mussels. Our concern at MAFF with shellfish is that they travel hygienically so they are good and fresh to eat at the other end."

Shellfish producers have also been told they do not have to draw up journey plans. But they will have to carry basic documentation governing all live creatures in transit, stating where they have come from and when they set out.

Spain agrees to pay Cornish fishermen

By A Staff Reporter

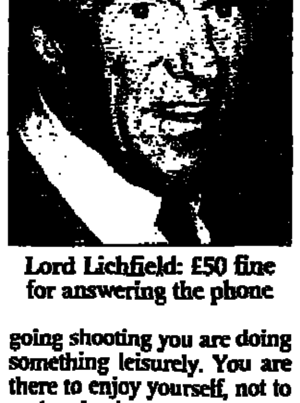
BRITISH fishermen will finally receive compensation from Spain for damage to their nets and gear during clashes in the Bay of Biscay two years ago. A total of £100,000 is to be paid to owners of trawlers from Newlyn, Cornwall.

Trawlers lost nets and gear when larger Spanish boats steamed through their positions in the lucrative tuna fishing grounds. Talks have been going on ever since to clinch a compensation deal and a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said they expected the money would be paid directly to the fishermen within the next fortnight. The deal has come too late to stop one skipper quitting the sea. Martin Jones, 47, lost gear worth £26,000 from his trawler *Pilot Star* in the clashes. Now he has decided to scrap his boat under the Government's decommissioning scheme to reduce the size of the British fleet and yesterday was busy cutting it up.

"We have been told the money is coming so many times I will not believe it until I actually bank the cheque," Mr Jones said. "All the time this has been dragging on I have been paying interest on the money I had to borrow from the bank to replace the damaged gear."

Lord Lichfield bans mobile phones on pheasant shoots

By A Staff Reporter



Lord Lichfield: £50 fine for answering the phone

THE Earl of Lichfield has ordered sportsmen not to use mobile phones when they go pheasant-shooting on his Staffordshire estate.

He is threatening on-the-spot fines of between £20 and £50 for people who refuse to switch off their phones while on his shooting grounds at Rampton, near Rugeley. The fine for a telephone ringing is £20 — but it goes up to £50 if the call is answered.

Lord Lichfield, the photographer known professionally as Patrick Lichfield, lives 15 miles from the shooting fields, in a flat at Shugborough Hall, set in 900 acres and run by the National Trust.

Rodney Haszard, the estate's agent, said the earl felt it was "frightfully bad manners" for sportsmen to take mobile phones while out shooting. "When you are going shooting you are doing something leisurely. You are there to enjoy yourself, not to make business calls," Mr Haszard said.

"Some people come just to show their telephones and others make sure people ring them just for show. They even get calls from their girlfriends on the shoot, and that is not the done thing.

"Some people are worse than others and are on the phone the whole time. The shooting manager, whose job it is to find people and move them around, finds somebody is not there; they are on the bloody phone. People come out in the countryside to enjoy themselves, not to be on the phone."

Lord Lichfield was not available for comment yesterday. However, he is adamant that people visiting the countryside cannot do so encumbered by modern technology. Fines collected will be distributed between shooting and country organisations.

The estate was given to the National Trust in 1966 but Lord Lichfield still lives in part of the main house.

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Rags and bullet casings testify to the thousands of Muslims feared killed by jeering captors

Mass graves scar hillsides round former Serb camp

Thousands of Muslims may have been killed in a Serb-held village where witnesses recall bodies being stacked like logs, writes ***Stacy Sullivan***

AT THE edge of a forest above the Serb-held Vlasenica there is a 40ft-wide dirt pit. Bits of clothing, stray shoes and bullet casings poke out from the flattened earth. A dilapidated blue trench-digger sits perched by its side.

Refugees going through the forest in October 1992 say they saw bodies being dumped. It is impossible to say how many may be buried in the basin because the town has been sealed off to journalists and human rights workers for three-and-half years.

Hundreds, possibly thousands of people, were killed in Serb-held Vlasenica, the site of the Susica detention camp where the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal estimates 8,000 Muslims were interned. The camp commander has already been indicted for war crimes.

One surviving witness recalled bodies stacked like logs and another a lorry-load of soldiers shouting: "There you are, dead Muslims. Soon there will be more of you." Two weeks ago American troops set up a base camp four miles from Susica in the ethnically cleansed village of Gradina, outside Vlasenica, making it possible for journalists to visit the town for the first time since its capture by the Serbs in the summer of 1992. The Americans were horrified as they pitched tents in the gardens of burnt-out houses.

But the horror of the charred village is just the first of the atrocities the Americans face. Besides the forest pit, there are said to be at least two other mass graves in the hills and valleys nearby.

The grave sites were described independently by Muslim refugees from Vlasenica who fled between June and October that year and are living on the government side, scattered between Kladanj and Tuzla. They still cannot enter a town that was once home to more Muslims than Serbs, but is now occupied by Serbs alone. But their descriptions of where they say they saw bodies being dumped match what has been found.

Allegations that bodies were dumped in three mass graves around Vlasenica poses a new challenge to the Nato peace force. So far it has insisted it does not have a responsibility to guard or protect suspected mass graves. US intelligence has gathered extensive evidence that war crimes and mass burials did take place in the former Yugoslavia, most in Serb-held Bosnia. But spy satellites can only be a guide. For a prosecution to take place, an on-the-scene inquiry must be conducted. So far investigators have been unable to reach alleged sites.

A UN report from June 1994 pinpointed 187 mass graves. Twenty sites allegedly contain more than 500 bodies, and most are in the east and west of Serb-held Bosnia.

The commander of Bosnia's peace implementation force, US Admiral Leighton Smith, pledged last week to provide assistance to the UN war crimes tribunal as it investigates on a "case by case" basis. But he insists Nato's sole task is to separate the former warring factions and create conditions for peace.

The political agenda of the American Government could nudge him to take a more active stance. Last week, the Assistant Secretary of State, John Shattuck, toured execution and burial sites in Eastern Bosnia, particularly around Srebrenica.

Vlasenica, an aluminium mining town 20 miles from Srebrenica, is like many towns in the area. It was never on a front-line, but many houses have been burnt. Where a mosque stood there is now a grassy field. In April 1992, Serb forces swept brutally through, forcing thousands of Muslim to flee. Those who did not escape were captured and bussed out, killed, or taken to Susica where they were beaten, tortured or killed. The commander of the camp, Dragan Nikolic, has been indicted for war crimes, but roams freely in the town.

> ❛ I said we should remember this spot because some day people should know what happened here ❜

Refugees who identified the sites were found in towns across Bosnia. The largest site, four miles from the US camp, was identified independently by two men living in different towns who were part of a refugee column passing through Vlasenica on its way from Serb-held Cerska to government-held Kloadanj.

The column was led by a 38-year-old metal worker now living in Tuzla. The man, who asked that his name should not be used, said the column of refugees was hiding in the forest just below the site of the dirt pit on October 29, 1992, the second day of a three-day journey out of Serb-held territory. "In the afternoon a red tractor towing a trailer of corpses drove up to the site and dumped 15 to 20 bodies along the side of the road. They were men and women of diferent ages. As night fell, the man said the column of refugees ran up the hill and passed the bodies. "Some of them were cut in half, others were partially burnt," he said. "I will never forget those three days."

The man said a white summer house stood by the site, and that a blue trench digger was there. It still is — and a small white house, gutted and its roof destroyed, is there, too.

The second witness, Maso, is a small dynamic man in his sixties who was in the refugee column. He said: "I was hiding with 35 other refugees by a stream below a dirt pit when I heard what sounded like a truck drive up. It was a tractor with a trailer and it unloaded some cargo. I didn't know what the cargo was until that evening when we had to run past a pile of bodies.

"We had to run past a blue forklift and a white summer house. I ran through the bodies up the hill. They were unloaded like logs. I said we should remember this spot because some day people should know what happened here."

Another site is about a mile from the US camp, at the foot of a Muslim cemetery, according to Ibro Osmanovic, a Susica survivor who has testified to the war crimes tribunal. "On June 6, 1992, I and a few other prisoners had to bury 22 bodies in the Muslim graveyard. We had to dump them into a hole dug by a bulldozer."

The witness to a third site, a spring on a dirt path less than a mile from Susica, said he saw a pit of bodies. Identified by the initials HC, he told local authorities that Serb soldiers came to his house on June 1 and took his father to Vlasenica police station. Hearing his father had been shot dead, HC asked two Serb brothers if they could help him find the body.

"On June 3 we went together and found the bodies — 33 of them — piled on a small hill which connected to the main road where wood was taken from the forest. I recognised my father and two others," he said.

"But we had to give up trying to retrieve my father's body because ... a group of people came with a trench digger and piled dirt on the bodies."

Serbs in Vlasenica are reluctant to talk about what happened that summer. They cannot explain why Muslim houses are gutted. Most insist the town's Muslims left voluntarily. However, some do allude to the atrocities. "There were lots of rumours about what was happening at Susica," said one middle-aged man. "People say many were killed there. I don't know for myself, but that's what people say."

The current Serb Mayor of Vlasenica, Vojislav Matrovic, said: "The Muslims were preparing to attack so we Serbs took the town without any bloodshed."

He added: "People in my building used to come to me and ask about the fate of missing men. They would ask me if they should stay and wait for them or if they should leave.

"I never knew what to tell them but I think those who left made the right decision."

A Bosnian soldier kisses his daughter, aged two, after being released by Serbs with 73 other prisoners of war in Sarajevo yesterday. He had been held for six months in the Serb prison at Foca, 25 miles south of the Bosnian capital (Eve-Ann Prentice writes).

Joy and tears as prisoners freed

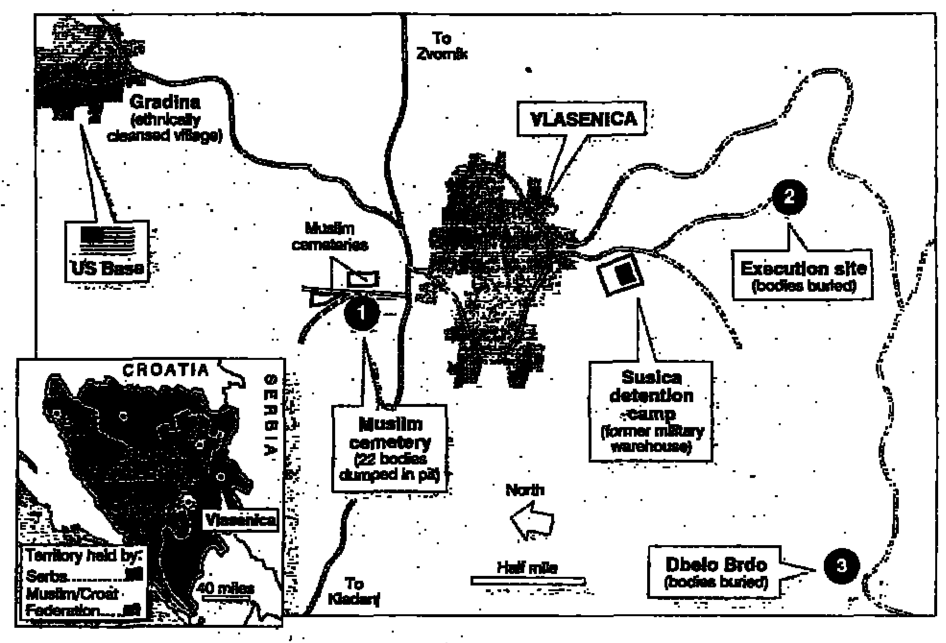
Pierre Gauthier, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said that each sides was still accusing the other of holding back some prisoners not on Red Cross lists. Serbs and Croats have admitted to retaining suspected war criminals. M Gauthier has also accused the Muslim-led Government of refusing the Red Cross access to a prison in Tuzla in central Bosnia, where it suspects a large number of Serbs are being held.

Nato and the Red Cross organised the handover of prisoners at Sarajevo airport. Some of the freed men had been held at Vlasenica in eastern Bosnia.

The Serbs were due to set free a total of 150 Muslim and Croat prisoners during the day, according to the Red Cross, but by dusk there was no word whether the others had been released. The Muslim-led Government released 76 prisoners in northern Bosnia, bringing the total over the weekend to well over 500. M Gauthier also said the Bosnian Government was expected to free a handful of Serbs held in the eastern enclave of Gorazde.

"I feel like I was born again," said Amir Jusic, 24, as he arrived in Sarajevo. But Ferid Kukavica, tearfully welcoming back a comrade from his Bosnian Army unit, said: "You might think there would be a party tonight, but there are so many dead in the war from that unit I don't think there will be."

The three Bosnian factions pledged last week to free 645 registered prisoners from the 3½-year war under strong pressure from the United States and European Union.


To Zvornik
Gradina (ethnically cleansed village)
VLASENICA
US Base
Muslim cemeteries
1
2
Execution site (bodies buried)
Susica detention camp (former military warehouse)
Muslim cemetery (22 bodies dumped in pit)
North
Half mile
Dbelo Brdo (bodies buried)
3
To Kladanj
CROATIA
SERBIA
Vlasenica
Territory held by:
Serbs
Muslim/Croat Federation
40 miles

EU will recognise Belgrade in face of American anger

By Eve-Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

THE European Union, led by Britain and France, is expected to recognise what remains of former Yugoslavia this week, in a move likely to provoke new friction between Whitehall and Washington.

The recognition of Serbia and Montenegro, which London hopes will come at the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels today and tomorrow, is aimed at rewarding Belgrade for its role in the Dayton peace agreement.

The strategy will cause unease in Washington, however, where the US Administration is pursuing a policy of gradually easing sanctions against Belgrade in an attempt to press the regime of President Milosevic of Serbia to improve human rights in the Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo and elsewhere.

Recognition is also likely to be seen by Mr Milosevic, widely regarded as a key fomenter of the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, as a sweeping victory in his battle to end his image as an international pariah.

Serbia and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia must first recognise one another before the EU's recognition goes ahead, but Western sources last night indicated this was almost certain to happen.

Although Western sources were confident that the European Union's Foreign Ministers would agree to the move this week, some European diplomats in Belgrade reportedly accused Britain and France of pursuing a policy independent of the EU.

Political sources in the capital of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Skopje, confirmed that they were expecting mutual recognition between the two states to take place by today.

Milan Milutinovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, was in Athens at the weekend to explain the move to Greece, which has been the Serbs' staunchest ally during the Balkan conflict.

Greece has been at odds with Skopje over the name of the southern Slav republic, which Athens said implied a claim on the northern Greek province, also called Macedonia.

London and Paris are leading the drive to recognise Belgrade because they want all the former Yugoslav republics to be treated the same, and because they believe international finance can be used as a lever against Belgrade if necessary in the future, Western sources said.

Germany will be among the first to send its ambassador to Belgrade, Germany's chargé d'affaires in Belgrade, Gerhard Enver Schroembgens, told Serbian radio yesterday.

In Sarajevo, an American soldier was grazed on the neck by a bullet yesterday as he walked in the grounds of a hotel complex used by Nato as the headquarters of its ground force commander. The incident, in the suburb of Ilidza, was under investigation. A spokesman refused to speculate about who might have fired the shot. A Swedish armoured personnel carrier skidded off a road in northern Bosnia and plunged into a river, killing a soldier.

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Rocket strikes on Kashmir kill 22 amid international concern over border clashes

Nuclear arms race feared in Asia as India tests missile

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CROSS-BORDER tensions are high in Kashmir after a weekend of intensive firing between Indian and Pakistani troops. The clashes, among the worst in years, came as India test-fired a new longer-range version of its Prithvi missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and plainly designed for deployment along the border with Pakistan.

Pakistan described development of the Prithvi as dangerous and said it would take steps to counter the threat. This may have been a reference to Chinese missiles that are believed to have been delivered to Pakistan but not deployed. The United States said at the weekend that deployment of the Prithvi could lead to a South Asian arms race.

The heightened border tension came after the death of 22 people in rocket attacks on a village in Pakistan-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir, which Pakistan claimed were launched by Indian forces. India denied this, saying Pakistani troops had fired the weapons, which were aimed at Indian territory but went astray.

India's border security force confirmed reports of heavy exchanges of fire that continued until early yesterday at 11 points across the line of control. "The Pakistanis are firing non-stop and we are firing at them," a spokesman said. He claimed that the shooting was a cover for separatist Muslim militants infiltrating into Indian Kashmir from Pakistan. Most of the clashes died out yesterday.

There have been two Indo-Pakistan wars over Kashmir. The latest skirmishes are clearly not a prelude to another, given that smaller-scale clashes are almost routine and blow over without further incident. But the heightened tension is worrying, as both sides are modernising their armoury and are capable of using nuclear missiles. Neither was a nuclear power when they last went to war.

"There is no question of these incidents leading to a fully-fledged war," a spokesman for the Indian Army said. Most sections of the line of control were now peaceful.

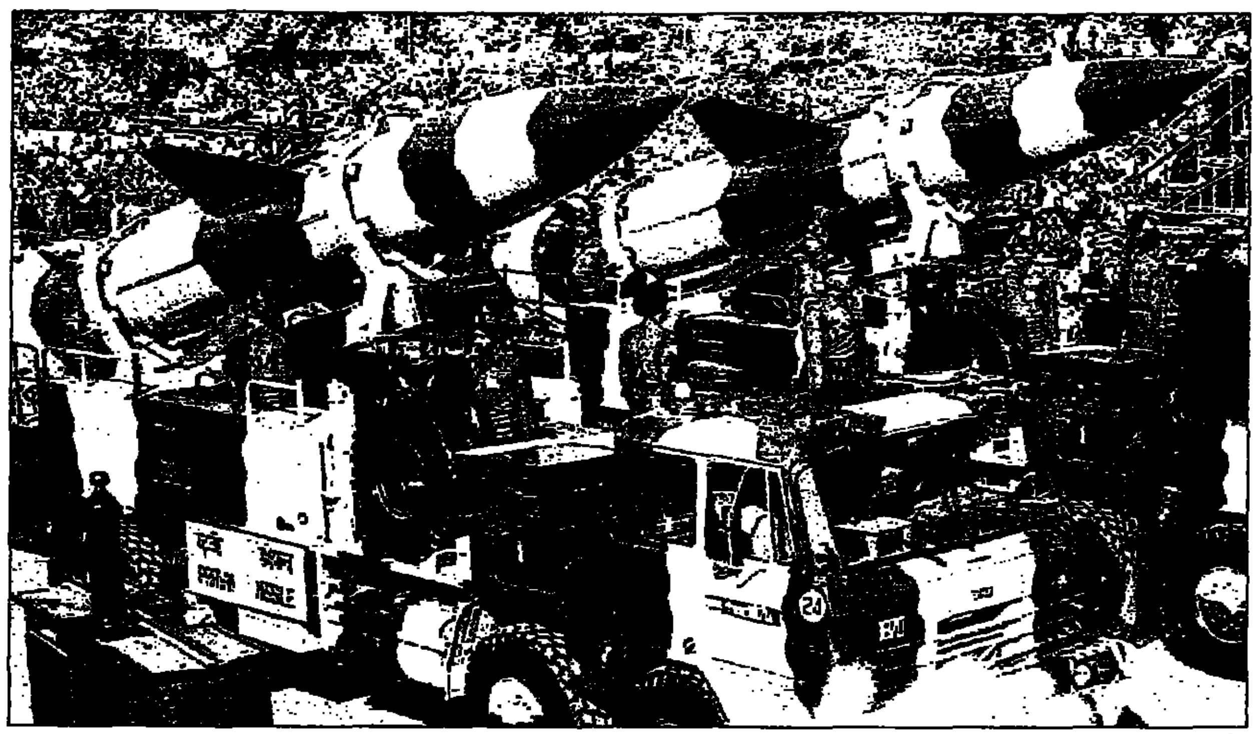
Aftab Shaaban Mirani, Pakistan's Defence Minister, issued the customary warning that his country was prepared to meet any aggression from India but added that "we must not think that all recent happenings are leading towards another Pakistan-India war".

Thousands of people attended services on Saturday for those killed in the rocket explosions in the village of Kahuta. The weapons landed near a mosque, which was damaged. Many people were in the area to observe a "black day" marking Republic Day in India on Friday.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum, prime minister of Azad Kashmir (a name not internationally recognised), told crowds: "We will go into trenches and defend every inch of Azad Kashmir."

The Prithvi missile has become a symbol of Indian technological pride. It was fired from a test range on the east coast, hitting its target 155 miles away, according to the Indian Defence Ministry. It was the fifteenth testing of the missile, but the first of a longer-range version that would be capable of penetrating deeper into Pakistani territory. India is also developing the Agni, with a range of up to 1,500 miles, which could reach deep into China.

America's warnings of an Indo-Pakistan arms race are privately viewed by India with incredulity, given the decision by America to clear the way for the supply of arms worth $368 million (£245 million) to Pakistan.



The longer-range version of India's Prithvi missile, on show in a Delhi parade to celebrate Republic Day

Pakistan troops on high alert

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN has put its troops on high alert and reinforced military security along the line of control in Kashmir.

A Pakistan army official claimed that troops destroyed one Indian army post on Saturday after retaliating against heavy firing from across the border.

President Legahri yesterday warned India that Pakistan would respond to the consistent cross-border firing. While visiting the site of the rocket attack in Kahuta, President Legahri ruled out threats of an all-out war between the two countries.

Emotions raged high in Pakistan-controlled Azad Kashmir and Pakistan as thousands of mourners buried their dead on in the small Kahuta mountain village some six miles from the line of control. The funeral was led by Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan, President of Azad Kashmir, who called on Pakistan to arm his people so they could defend themselves from cross-border attacks.

In Islamabad, hundreds of protesters chanting anti-Indian slogans marched to the Indian High Commission. Anti-Indian rallies were also held in Azad Kashmir.

Peking picks elite military unit to defend Hong Kong

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA said yesterday that it has completed the formation of People's Liberation Army forces to be stationed in Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese rule in July 1997. Peking emphasised that the troops would be responsible for the defence of the territory and would not interfere with local affairs.

Sources say the troops are chosen from China's 42nd Army Group, considered one of the most prestigious units, and that they would number about 6,000, which is below the peak of British troop strength in the territory. The Chinese say the army presence is to demonstrate sovereignty over the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, as the territory will be known, and "not to take part in battles".

Small navy and air force units will complete the Hong Kong garrison, probably under the command of Major-General Liu Zhenwu, who is in charge of their selection and training, sources in Hong Kong suggest. The future garrison will be under the direct command of the Central Military Commission but will report to the Canton military area command.

The joint announcement by the commission and the ruling State Council said that, although the troops would not interfere in local affairs, the region may, when necessary, ask the central Government for assistance from the garrison "in the maintenance of public order and in disaster relief". The troops' main responsibility will be to "safeguard state sovereignty, reunification and territorial integrity".

China nets falcon poachers

Peking: Forest police in western China have seized 925 falcon poachers — many of them foreigners — and rescued more than 400 rare birds.

The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that many of the smugglers were from an unspecified neighbouring country, entering on tourist or business visas. The poachers transport the falcons to the Middle East where they command up to £33,000 each, the agency said. Most of the poachers were released after their prey was seized. *(Reuter)*

Turkey admits reporter was beaten to death by police

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA

TURKEY has admitted that a journalist, found battered to death, died in police custody. An inquiry has led to the suspension of about 15 policemen in Istanbul and more people may be implicated.

The rare admission by Teoman Unusan, the Interior Minister, refutes an earlier official version of events which stated that Metin Goktepe, 27, a reporter for *Evrensel*, a radical newspaper, died after bumping his head against a table in a tea garden.

Mr Unusan offered a public apology to the family of Goktepe, whose body was found on January 9, and the Turkish press, which had been outraged at the cover-up. Witnesses had reported that Goktepe was covering a protest at a funeral of three prisoners killed by security forces in a prison riot when he was taken into custody.

Late last week Tansu Ciller, the acting Prime Minister, said publicly that other heads might roll: 34 more policemen are being investigated.

Yesterday Nilufer Kuyas, a senior editor of *Milliyet*, a national newspaper, said: "We all know these things happen. What is significant is that this is the first time it has really come out into the open."

Mesut Yilmaz, the leader of the Motherland Party, has publicly accused the police of torture. He may have been, in part, motivated to embarrass his rival, Mrs Ciller, among whose new band of MPs are several former police chiefs.

The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey alleges that 32 people have died under police interrogation in Turkey in 1994, the last year for which it has compiled figures.

WORLD SUMMARY

Moi lifts law threat to press

Nairobi: President Moi has shelved two controversial draft Bills that would have severely restricted press freedom in Kenya (Scott Straus writes).

Facing a barrage of criticism from local journalists and international press freedom groups, Mr Moi ordered the draft legislation to be withheld, but only until further notice. "The intention was not to suppress the freedom of the press in Kenya," he said.

The Bills would require all journalists to be registered by government-controlled boards which would be able to fine, jail or "strike off" journalists and to ban publications.

Germany marks Nazi atrocities

Bonn: Germany has held its first official national day of remembrance for the millions of Nazi victims.

The day chosen was the anniversary of the liberation by Soviet forces of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland on January 27, 1945. Ceremonies were held on the sites of former concentration camps in Germany including Buchenwald, Ravensbruck and Sachsenhausen. *(AFP)*

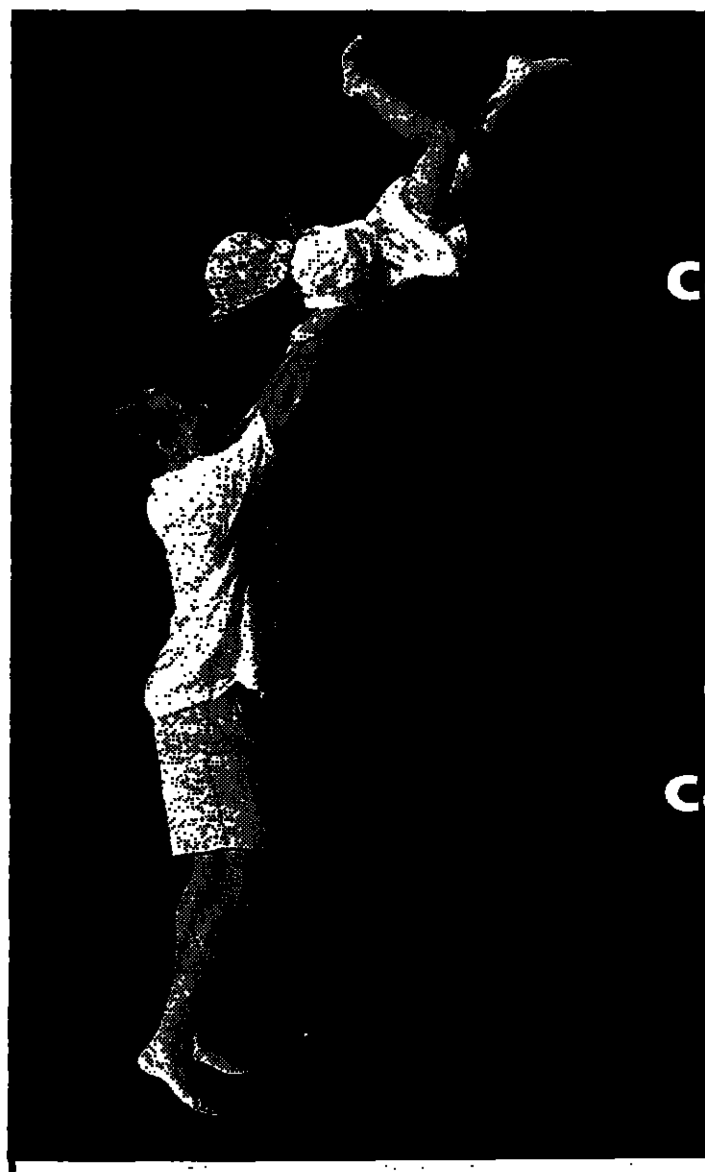
State gets back Chun's £2.5m

Seoul: A former key aide of jailed ex-President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea reportedly has turned £2.5 million given to him by the former leader over to the state.

Prosecutors, who charged the ex-President with bribery while in office from 1980 to 1988, said they had not yet decided what to do about the money as "it has no direct connection with criminal acts", newspapers said. *(AFP)*

Kidnap cordon

Jakarta: The Indonesian military has tightened a blockade round a group of separatist rebels who are holding 13 hostages, including four Britons, in Irian Jaya, in order to prevent them from moving deeper into the jungle. *(AP)*



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Number of years there ☐ Years
Tel: STD No
Please tick the relevant box indicating if you are:

On which day in the month would you prefer your regular monthly payments to be made? ☐
Purpose of loan
If for a car, is it? ☐ New ☐ used

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MERCANTILE CREDIT

Magazine claims 'dark side' drives Hillary Clinton to row with President

From Ian Brodie
in Washington

HILLARY CLINTON was portrayed yesterday as having a "dark side" and of denouncing President Clinton in front of others for being "stupid".

The unflattering depiction of the First Lady came on the heels of her unprecedented appearance in front of a grand jury investigating the Whitewater affair.

"Mrs Clinton has been known to berate her husband in front of staff in what some aides consider a shocking display of disrespect," according to today's *US News and World Report*. The magazine says that on one occasion Mrs Clinton fumed that Mr Clinton was too preoccupied with details of legislation and should be standing above the petty quarrels in Congress. "How could you be so damn stupid?" she is quoted as demanding of him. It says one witness described her comments as "lacerating", while other aides were embarrassed.

"She is liable to shout when something goes wrong and aides are skittish about provoking her," the magazine says. But there was a softer side to her, too. "Family friends of the Clintons say that when things are going well for her, Mrs Clinton can be extremely protective of her husband. When he is weary or frustrated, she serves him tea and listen patiently as he blows off steam."

Mike McCurry, the President's spokesman, said the allegations of the tirade smacked of second-hand or even third-hand accounts from people who probably resented Mrs Clinton. He said Americans had seen how gracious she was during her recent book tour and her summons to the grand jury. "They will know that this is a wildly inaccurate portrait of who she is," said Mr McCurry. He added that he could not recall anything but pleasant exchanges with Mrs Clinton.

US News also publishes excerpts from a new book by Kenneth Walsh, its senior White House correspondent, who says that Mrs Clinton was incensed by what she considered press intrusion into the Clintons' personal lives in their first months in office. The Administration was said to have considered moving the press room out of the White House and isolating reporters in another building. Neel Lattimore, spokesman for Mrs Clinton, said the story was untrue.

Claims of the Clintons' marital strife and Mrs Clinton's domineering personality have been made before, but appear to have been given a new lease of life to coincide with her legal problems and could be politically driven. Last week, in one of the wilder accounts, the *National Enquirer* claimed that Mrs Clinton intended to seek a divorce if her husband failed to be re-elected. The article alleged that the couple endured a "marriage of convenience", fought often, slept in separate rooms and had stayed together only to save their political careers.

The Clintons have been at pains to dispute these attacks. During his State of the Union speech last week, Mr Clinton pointedly referred to Mrs Clinton in the gallery as a magnificent wife, mother and First Lady. Mr McCurry said that the President assured his wife that he loved her as she set off for the grand jury last Friday to answer questions on how Whitewater documents, missing for two years, had turned up in the White House private quarters.

So far, concerns about Mrs Clinton are not hurting Mr Clinton's lead in opinion polls over Robert Dole, his potential Republican rival in next autumn's election. But half of those questioned in a new survey by *Newsweek* believe she is not being truthful about her involvement in Whitewater and the White House travel office sackings.

Desperate Dole seeks to create illusion of strength

From Martin Fletcher in Manchester, New Hampshire

RAIN pummelled New Hampshire on Saturday, and a day on the stump with Robert Dole did absolutely nothing to dispel the gloom.

The Republican presidential frontrunner sped round the state in a long motorcade with his wife Elizabeth, New Hampshire's Governor and various senators and congressmen in tow. He addressed small, handpicked audiences of committed supporters who dutifully waved their flags, but met scarcely a single undecided voter.

The whole exercise was designed to deceive, to foster the illusion that Mr Dole's is a strong, vigorous campaign that cannot be beaten, to shore up his crumbling base.

At his last stop, in Manchester, Mr Dole, the Second World War hero, addressed military veterans of the American Legion who naturally cheered and embraced a man they consider one of their own.

I asked Nelson Warfield, Mr Dole's press secretary, why the 72-year-old senator had spent the day preaching to the converted. He pointed to a line of television cameras and replied with disarming frankness: "People on the other end of those are not." Sure enough, the pictures on the evening news looked great.

In reality these are desperate days in the Dole camp. With just two weeks left until the Iowa caucuses, and three until New Hampshire's primary, Mr Dole's once-great lead is being whittled away by the multi-millionaire publisher Steve Forbes and his handlers are frantically seeking to run out the clock.

They have begun hammering Mr Forbes in commercials while striving to ensure their own notoriously caustic, short-fused candidate makes no gaffes.

Mr Dole gives no interviews; he will not let journalists travel with him. He makes only stage-managed appearances before friendly crowds warmed up by a video recalling his wartime heroics and recovery from near-fatal wounds. Mr Dole cannot regain the initiative because his candidacy lacks any rationale or purpose beyond the vague notion that it is finally his turn.

His stump speeches are almost comically vacuous. They amount to a random sequence of fuzzy platitudes that mandate applause. "This is all about character, about leadership, about America, about your children and the next generation and the next century," he declares. "Hard work and honesty and discipline and self-reliance and a sense of community. That's what America is all about," he proclaims. "This is a great country and we are going to keep it that way," he adds.

He offers no new ideas, no compelling vision, no indication of exactly where his "proven leadership" would take America beyond parroting the Gingrichian mantra of smaller government, lower taxes and a return to traditional values. Even supporters struggled to explain what he stood for after Saturday's speeches.

Mr Dole does have strengths. He is a consummate legislative deal maker and vastly experienced, but America's present loathing of its Government makes liabilities of these attributes and is forcing him into ridiculous contortions.

This is a man who has served continuously in public office since 1951 when President Clinton was four. He was first elected to Congress in 1960 when Eisenhower was President. He is the Senate's longest-serving Republican leader.

He is frontrunner not by acclaim, but by virtue of a weak and divided opposition, some shameless pandering to the right, the huge warchest and matchless name recognition that go with being Senate leader.

Mr Dole had hoped to win Iowa and New Hampshire so comprehensively that the race would be over, but even narrow victories are no longer guaranteed. The more likely scenario is that Mr Dole limps to the nomination after a protracted battle and is then devoured — Whitewater permitting — by Mr Clinton, a campaigner as brilliant as Mr Dole is dull.

An Ethiopian Jewish protester swings a club at mounted riot police as thousands demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office yesterday

Ethiopian Jews battle police in 'tainted blood' riot

From Christopher Walker
in Jerusalem

PARTS of Jerusalem were turned into a battleground yesterday as thousands of Ethiopian Jews tried to storm the Prime Minister's office. Police made use of rubber bullets, percussion grenades, teargas and water cannon to stop them.

For most of the day, the air was filled with the wailing sirens of ambulances and security vehicles; by nightfall, Israel radio reported that dozens of protesters and police had been injured in the clashes, the worst since the Palestinian intifada.

The riots were sparked by a story in *Maariv* newspaper that bags of blood donated by members of the 60,000-strong Ethiopian Jewish community had been routinely thrown out by the authorities because of a fear of Aids. The donors were never informed.

Amid the acrid teargas fumes yesterday, the air was rent with cries such as "This is like Germany, not Israel". Protest placards read "Our skin might be black, but we are just as Jewish as you."

The news about the racist blood-bank policy also unleashed pent-up fury at the social and cultural problems that black Jews have been facing. The extent of the violence clearly marked an end to the hopes raised when two airlifts, Operation Moses in 1984 and Operation Solomon in 1991, brought them to Israel. "We cannot have racists serving in top posts in Israel ... telling us we smell," said Addisu Messele, a leader of the Ethopian community. He, like other protesters among whom were also supporters from minority communities, demanded the resignation of Ephraim Sneh, the Health Minister.

Mr Sneh, backed by top officials in the Israeli blood transfusion service, defended the decision to destroy all blood donated by the Ethiopian immigrants because figures showed that the HIV virus linked to Aids was 50 times higher in their community than among the general population.

Privately, many ordinary Israelis applauded the decision. "I do not want to have to risk my life, or that of my family and friends who may need blood, because of some decision based on political correctness. We have to face the medical facts," said one reserve army driver.

Underdog Keating vows to lead Labor to poll triumph

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

Howard: needs a swing of less than 1 per cent

THE Australian Government launched its election campaign yesterday with the admission that it expects nobody to like Paul Keating, the Prime Minister.

In what appeared to be a desperate attempt to make a virtue out of the Labor leader's negative image, the first day of the election campaign saw the party's television commercial aired with the message: "You don't have to like him, but you've got to respect him."

In an accompanying advertisement, Mr Keating said that only Labor was capable of leading the country. "This is an era full of promise for Australia. Labor has the team, the vision, the strength, the will, the policies to keep Australia moving," he said.

A Morgan opinion poll published last night showed that voters felt otherwise, putting Labor eight points behind the conservative opposition of the Liberal and National parties.

John Howard, the Opposition leader, refused to be overconfident about the election on March 2, but said Australians were aching for a change. "I do not believe that I should be Prime Minister ... because it is my turn. I should be Prime Minister because I believe I can do a much better job than the current incumbent."

While Mr Howard is certainly the front-runner in this campaign, nobody is ruling out Mr Keating at this stage. Three years ago the Labor leader was written off by both the opinion polls and the media, yet managed to secure victory by running a campaign focusing on the Opposition's plan to introduce a goods and services tax.

The Liberals have learnt their lesson and the tax proposal has been quietly buried. The Opposition is so wary of upsetting vociferous minorities and the trade unions that it has gone out of its way to be all things to all men.

Mr Keating has taken great delight in describing the Opposition as a policy-free zone, although Mr Howard insists that all will be revealed over the next five weeks. With the conservative coalition needing a swing of less than 1 per cent to win the election, it is determined not to endanger its chances of ending 13 years of Labor rule.

There is little to differentiate the rival camps; their policies bear a remarkable similarity, but the packaging differs.

The main issues in the election will almost certainly be jobs and the economy. With inflation hovering at about 5 per cent and unemployment having fallen to about 8.5 per cent, Labor argues that it is winning the battle. The Opposition points to Australia's poor balance of payments figures and high foreign debt.

Keating: making a virtue out of his negative image

Niger aid halted after army coup

By Eve-Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

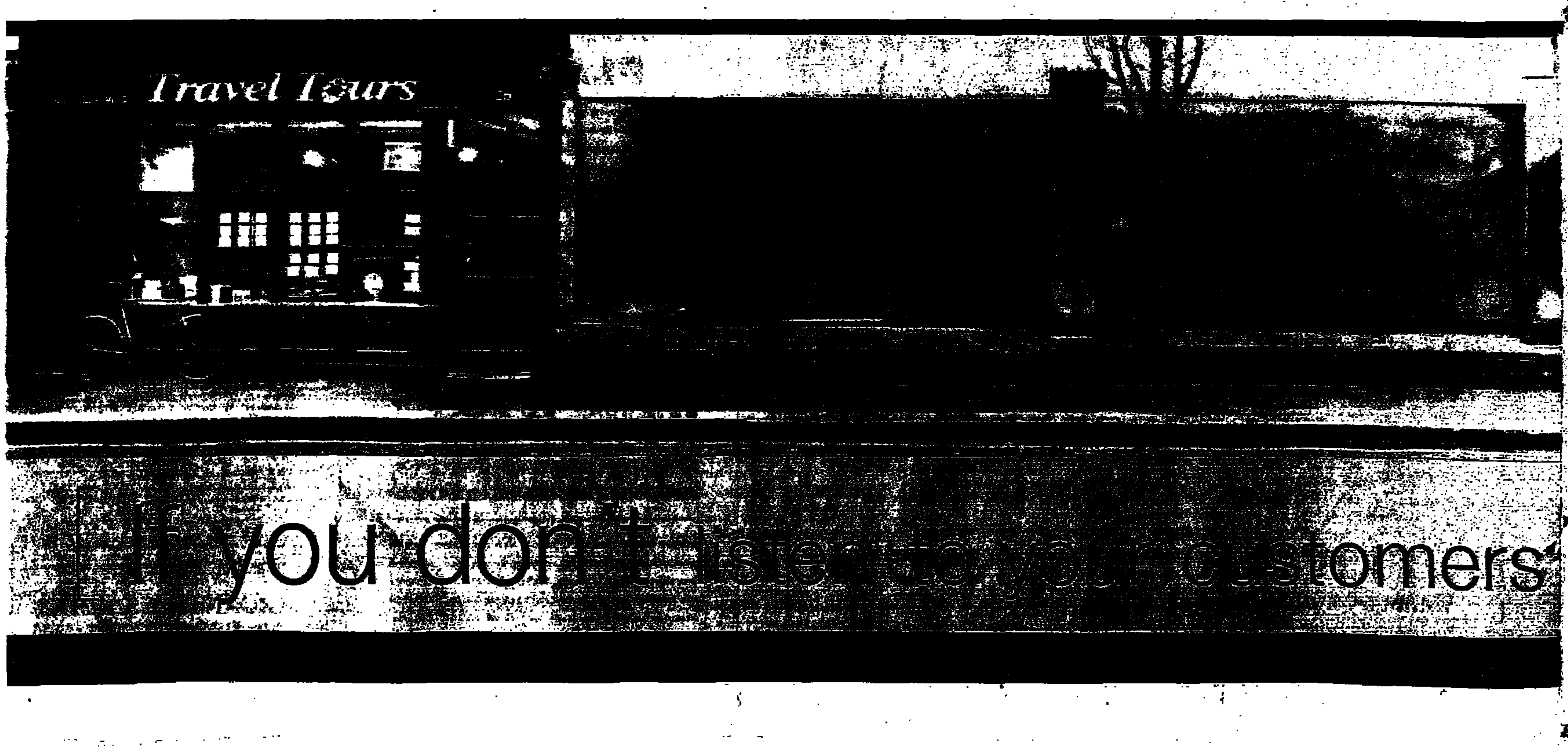
NIGER, the vast West African state described by the United Nations as the world's least developed country, was under military rule yesterday after a weekend coup which left at least five people dead.

France, which ruled Niger until 1960, and America swiftly condemned Saturday's coup, in which Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara overthrew President Mahamane Ousmane, its first democratically elected leader in two decades after 20 years of military rule.

France announced the suspension of civil and military co-operation, and called for the release of those detained and "the restoration of constitutional legality". America also suspended aid.

Niger had been ruled by Mr Ousmane since April 1993. It is one of the world's poorest countries, with a population of about 8.5 million.

Colonel Mainassara, who was officially proclaimed president of the new National Salvation Committee set up to take over all powers, declared a state of emergency. Mr Ousmane is said by the army to be under house arrest in the capital, Niamey.



هكذا من الأصل

Embers of doubt smoulder in the basement of mighty Maastricht edifice

**FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS**

FATE OF EMU

EUROPE'S Foreign Ministers meet in Brussels today for their first council of the year. All are intent on steering clear of the one topic that is stirring anguish and argument across the Union: the single currency.

With prophecies of doom from Britain and hand-wringing in the French political world, the EU's big Governments do not want to fan the embers of doubt in the basement of the Maastricht house. However, with the fumes of economic gloom growing thicker, all are wondering when someone will break and call the fire brigade.

According to the house rules, agreed in 1991 and fleshed out in Madrid last month, there are still two years before the big decision on which countries qualify for the first euro club in 1999. The EU is now supposed to be concentrating on its institutional revamp ahead of enlarged membership. In public, Jacques Santer and his Commission insist the euro will be born on time. But the souring economic climate is making it likely that Paris and Bonn, two essential players, will soon be forced to seek relief with political action.

For Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor and driving force behind the dream of union, and President Chirac of France, who sees union as preferable to a "German Europe", the ideal would be limited to joint action to boost confidence and growth, easing the pressure without tampering with the criteria for EMU membership. A "confidence pact" is in the works.

Since the slowdown means that France and even Germany may not meet the criteria, it seems likely that one of two options will have to be adopted: delay, or allow a flexible interpretation of the rules. This would make it easier to make the grade and would allow Paris to ease the deficit-cutting drive which is causing much of the country to see Maastricht as an "Anglo-Saxon" ploy to destroy the French soul with a brutal free market.

For federal thinkers outside Germany, "flexibility" is the lesser evil. The treaty, whose text holds sacred status in Brussels, does offer room for manoeuvre, but Germany is loath to allow anything that would make citizens even more reluctant to give up their beloved mark. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President and architect of the European Monetary System, caused a shock last week by urging the flexible approach, an idea already espoused by Edouard Balladur, the last Gaullist Prime Minister.

He was followed by Jean-Luc Dehaene, Prime Minister of Belgium, whose country eagerly wants EMU but cannot meet the entrance test on national debt. Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, implicitly backed the idea, calling for political vision rather than economic quibbling.

Herr Kohl sounded a new warning over the weekend against anything that slowed the Maastricht timetable. "Anyone who wants a take a break now should know that he could easily be bringing things to an end," he said.

Delay is seen as dangerous because, in the favourite cliché of the Commission, it would open Pandora's box and doom the whole project. Supporters include senior politicians in Spain and Italy, eager EMU candidates that are unlikely to meet even generous criteria in 1999. A chunk of the directorate of the *Bundesbank* also favours delay rather than diluting the rules.

At the heart of the anguish is the underlying confusion over EMU's raison d'être. Is EMU the means to deeper political union, as desired by Germany and the federalists, or should it mainly be sold as a tool for economic efficiency? The United Europe pitch goes down well in Germany and in France, where 62 per cent still favour EMU despite the *anti-austerity* strikes. The efficiency argument is better suited to Britain and the Nordic states, which see sovereignty threatened by monetary union. Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist who is manoeuvring to take Alain Juppé's prime ministerial seat in France, said: "We have to stop drowning ourselves in matters of method and deadlines that make us lose sight of the main point: do we want to build Europe or not?"

At the Commission, they acknowledge that EMU's fate will be sealed by politics, not percentage points on budget deficits. Santer team officials argue that the gloating of some British ministers is premature. "They are underestimating the sheer will among the people who count in France and Germany to go through with this project," one said.

Paris ministers fall out over tight currency criteria

**FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS**

FRANCE

THE uncertain future of European monetary union has left the French Government deeply divided as its leaders struggle to convince the public that France can meet the criteria for a single currency despite a rising tide of scepticism.

Michel Barnier, the Minister for European Affairs, weighed into the fray yesterday with an attack on Cabinet colleagues who have dared to suggest, along with many other senior politicians, business leaders and economists, that France may not be able to cut its deficit by the deadline set in the Maastricht treaty.

In an interview with the weekly *Journal du Dimanche*, M Barnier insisted that the single-currency goals laid down at Maastricht were set in stone. "There will be no second battle of Maastricht," he declared.

But that battle has already erupted in the media, in financial circles and within the Cabinet itself. Last week two of M Barnier's ministerial colleagues, Franck Borotra, the Industry Minister, and Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, made statements implying that the Maastricht deadline, requiring that the deficit be cut to less than 3 per cent of GDP by 1997, might be too tight.

Without naming either minister, M Barnier fired back yesterday, declaring that "what matters is what the President and Prime Minister say". He was still sharper on the subject of Marc Vienot, the chairman of the bank Société Générale, who has described French chances of meeting the Maastricht criteria on time as "minuscule". M Vienot would do better to concentrate on lowering interest rates, since "that is the true job of a banker rather than sowing uncertainty", M Barnier said.

As the debate slides deeper into acrimony, both President Chirac and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, have sought to restore balance by insisting that the Maastricht timetable is sacrosanct. On Friday, M Chirac said France had no interest in renegotiating the Maastricht treaty, while M Juppé flatly maintained "the path has been set".

But with the stakes and the temperature rising, the Maastricht question has merged with an undeclared battle to succeed the deeply unpopular M Juppé. Last week Philippe Séguin, the Speaker of the National Assembly, again raised the probability that monetary union may have to be postponed. But M Séguin also toned down his attacks on Maastricht, in a move many interpret as an attempt to boost his chances of replacing M Juppé.

Not surprisingly, the Prime Minister was lukewarm in his praise for M Séguin's remarks. "Everything that adds to support for the construction of Europe seems good to me," M Juppé said, with a marked lack of enthusiasm.

Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, on the other hand, was quick to defend the party line on Maastricht. That, too, was widely seen as a bid for the premiership, should M Juppé be ousted.

A flagging economy has been further damaged by the strikes that erupted when M Juppé tried to overhaul the welfare system and bring down the deficit. Many of the key elements in the Juppé plan have since been jettisoned, but union leaders are already threatening further stoppages over what little remains of the reform plan.

Given the dwindling growth rate, many economists believe that deeper cuts, and thus more strikes, are inevitable if France is to have a chance of meeting the Maastricht deadline.

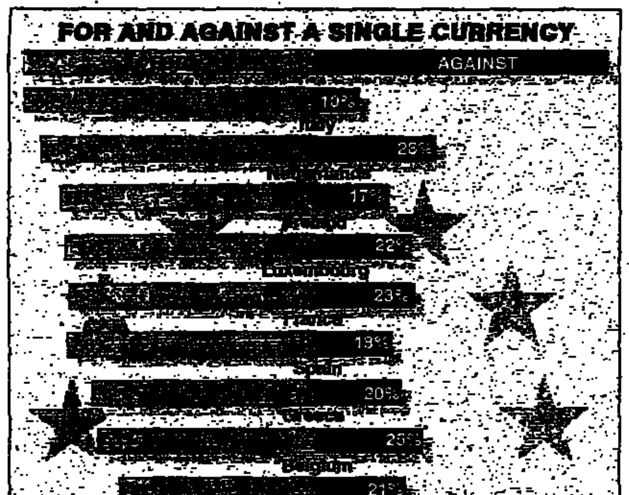
With ministers openly at odds over Europe's future, and rivals already discreetly manoeuvring for the premiership, M Chirac may need a bold move to recapture the initiative. One short-term possibility is to sack M Juppé. Another is to hold a referendum on monetary union.

M Barnier said yesterday that, although the President was considering "consulting the French" on various European issues, such as institutional reform, defence or incorporating new members into the European Union, he "did not speak of a referendum on the single currency".

But as the economic storm clouds continue to gather, that possibility cannot be far from his mind.

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

FOR AND AGAINST A SINGLE CURRENCY



ALASTAIR MILLER

Jacques Chirac may call a second referendum on monetary union if the economy worsens

Oxford dons see logic of stopping monetary clock

BY OLIVER AUGUST

ACADEMIC VIEW

ECONOMISTS at Oxford University have given weight to the growing feeling among government officials across Europe that monetary union will have to be postponed beyond 1999, the date set in the Maastricht treaty.

The treaty signatories face a stark choice between fudging the economic criteria necessary to make a single currency work or delaying the creation of the single currency until at least core countries like Germany and France can meet the criteria, said James Forder, a lecturer on the subject at St Peter's College.

A delay has become increasingly likely as the latest economic figures show that last year Luxembourg was the only EU member meeting all the criteria, while a fudging of the criteria has encountered strong opposition from inflation-conscious Germany.

A solution to the looming 1999 deadline would be the time-honoured Brussels procedure of "stopping the clock". Mr Forder said: "They have done it before when time ran out during the common agricultural policy negotiations. At five to midnight they stopped the clock and just kept talking."

Worsening economic circumstances have made stopping the clock popular even in the most Europhile countries. "Postponement would suit virtually every EU member now," said Andrea Boltho, a specialist in European economics at Magdalen College.

France could address its unemployment problem and Germany would hold on to the mark until the other currencies have drawn level with it, Mr Boltho said.

Even Italy, probably the most fervent proponent of monetary union, is warming to the idea of postponing it. Italy's present economic situtation would otherwise preclude it from membership of a monetary union, as it does not meet any of the criteria agreed at Maastricht.

But a postponement does not necessarily entail abandoning the entire project. Chris Allsopp, editor of the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, said: "Everything is looking worse now — if you are for a single currency. But a lot of people on the Continent still take the single currency for granted, just not on the present timetable."

While continental government officials have only privately admitted that the Maastricht timetable is unlikely to be met, fringe politicians have broken the official silence in the last week.

Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, and Philippe Séguin, widely tipped as next French Prime Minister, have made their doubts about a single currency by 1999 known.

Nation of sceptics force Kohl to keep bluffing

**BY GEORGE BROCK
EUROPEAN EDITOR**

GERMANY

THE battle over the single currency has turned into a game of liar's poker. Can Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France bluff their way through to 1999? Their assurances that the stiff requirements of the Maastricht treaty on deficits can and will be met sound less credible with each passing week.

The only real option Paris and Bonn have is to postpone the 1999 date for the start of the currency. That may turn out to be the same as cancelling the entire enterprise. Even though Herr Kohl looks like running for re-election in 1998, it may be beyond even his powers to convert enough voters into fans of the euro. "It is the popular base that is missing," Jürgen Stark, Germany's junior Finance Minister, admitted with unusual candour last week.

I have just returned from a lecture tour of Germany which took me to six cities in as many days. Apart from Bonn, where it remains politically incorrect to speak against monetary union, most Germans struck me as either neutral or doubtful about a single currency. They are quietly sceptical that a monetary union would bind their country more closely to its partners and reassure the rest of Europe that Germany will not threaten the Continent's peace again. But they are nervous of saying so out loud: to be publicly against monetary union in Germany is to risk being thought hostile to Europe, which is close to declaring yourself in favour of aggressive nationalism and war. Yet private doubt is hollowing out support for Germany's European policy.

When the Prince of Wales visited Hamburg last May, he lunched with local businessmen. At the end of a conversation about monetary union, a head count of votes for and against was taken. None of the German businessmen was in favour. "Last year I would have said to you that I was 70 per cent in favour of Europe," a businessman said to me in Dresden. "Now I would say that I am 60 per cent against."

The Germans think that Herr Kohl, dominating his country's politics from its prosperous Rhineland capital, will not alter course. To many of them, Bonn seems a remote galaxy: "As long as Kohl is the captain of Starship Bonn, there will be no change," said one observer.

But Herr Kohl's convictions are no longer shared elsewhere. Neither Spain nor Italy, both far from qualifying for a single currency, would object if monetary union was put on the back-burner. Attempts to discourage French politicians, bankers and pundits from complaining about the single currency have failed. Emmanuel Todd, the influential French social scientist, caused a sharp intake of breath recently by comparing the French Government's slavish copying of German monetary rigour to the Vichy period. "Since France started the servile imitation of German policy, rather than dealing with it as a normal country, they have both been paralysed."

President Chirac is trapped in a commitment to a single currency which he may well not believe in, but which he cannot withdraw from without a huge fall of the franc and terminal damage to France's postwar policy of trying to contain German power.

Because of that, M Chirac and Herr Kohl will struggle on with a twin-track strategy. They will try to organise an orderly postponement of the Maastricht deadline, hoping economic growth will pick up again and improve the odds.

As the saying goes, 'You can't please all of the people, all of the time'. But given that it costs five times as much to gain a new customer as it does to keep an existing one, it pays to hang onto them. A Freefone Customer Careline can help. It's an easy way for people to get in touch with you. Whether it's to ask for advice, make suggestions on improving your service or even let off steam. A Careline also shows you value customer's opinions, that your company is prepared to listen. In fact, a recent survey found that 82% of customers are likely to re-order with you again if their complaint is successfully dealt with. For more information on your own Customer Careline, talk to us on 0800 800 800.

[Work *smarter*,
not just *harder*]

BT

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

The Saatchi Gallery goes talent-spotting across the Atlantic with a show of young Americans

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ RECITAL

The British pianist Malcolm Binns celebrates his sixtieth birthday at the Wigmore Hall

CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ THEATRE

Curtain up at the Barbican for Simon Callow's new staging of *Les Enfants du Paradis*

FIRST NIGHT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ MUSIC

Michael Nyman brings his operatic version of *The Tempest* to the Festival Hall

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

COMMUNICATING DOORS: Angela Thorne reopens Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play, fleeing from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades. A truly funny and sometimes nail-bitingly scary show.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat: 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

TWO TRAINS RUNNING: Opening night for the latest of August Wilson's decalogue of plays about 20th-century black Americans, set in 1969 Pittsburgh, in a restaurant due to be demolished. Pauline Randall directs a strong cast including Jenny Jules, Tony Armatrading and George Harris.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Feb 8 and 14, 2pm; Sat, 4pm. 🅂

BINNS BIRTHDAY RECITAL: Malcolm Binns, one the grand masters of the piano, celebrates 40 years of performing and his 60th birthday, with a programme devoted to Chopin.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. 🅂

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: Last week of performances for **The Steamie**, Tony Roper's modern Scottish classic: memories, hopes and vivid gossip swapped by four women in the days before launderettes. Caroline Hall directs.
Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street (0131-229 9697). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm 🅂

GUILDFORD: Adam Faith returns to the play he premiered in Hampstead last summer, Michael Frayn's **Now You Know**. Frayn's stylish serious comedy, arguing about secrecy in government, is intelligent and diverting, has some good, lively writing, but received mixed reviews for its inconsistencies.
Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (01483 440 000). Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Feb 10. 🅂

MANCHESTER: Last week here for **British Art Show 4**, a once every five year salute to contemporary British artists from the South Bank national touring exhibitions. Seven galleries host more than 100 works from 26 artists, including Damien Hirst's now infamous sheep in a formaldehyde tank.
Participating galleries: Castlefield, Chinese Arts Centre, City Art, Cornerhouse, Metropolitan, Upper Campfield Market and the Whitworth.
Information: (0161-953 4239).

PETERBOROUGH: The slick mayhem of the Reduced Shakespeare Company continues this week: take three men and 97 minutes and watch the sparks fly in the **The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)**. There is also the treat of *The Complete History of America* — 500 years in 6,000 seconds.
Key, Embankment Road (01733 52439). *Shakespeare*: Tonight and Tue, 7.30pm; Thurs, 2.30 and 7.30pm; Sat, 5pm and 8pm. *America*: Wed, 7.30pm and Fri, 8pm. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum**: Images from the Western Lake: revival of colour print in contemporary China (0171-636 1555) . . . **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Serpentine**: Jana Sterbak: Velleitas (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate**: Bill Woodrow: Fools' Gold, 15 bronze statues; Picturing Blackness (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Jain Art from India; Expressionist Prints (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

☐ **FUNNY MONEY**: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce; Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm 🅂

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**: Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat. 3pm

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **JOLSON**: The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE**: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Final week.

☐ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

■ **STANLEY**: Antony Sher plays Stanley Spencer, the painter whose desired connections with women were odd. New biographical play by Pam Gems. John Caird directs.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews tonight-Jan 31, 7.30pm. *Opens Feb 1, 7pm*. 🅂

☐ **THE TOWER**: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad, murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Final week. 🅂

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 🅂

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . . ☐ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . . ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . . ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): Crisis point for a woman writer of romantic fiction. Surprisingly sober and tender drama from Pedro Almodóvar. With Marisa Paredes.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15): Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon. Director, Scott Michell.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

MADAGASCAR SKIN: Odd behaviour on a beach. Stillborn British feature from Chris Newby.
ICA 🅂 (0171-930 3647)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire 🅂 (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

THE MOST DESIRED MAN (18): Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett; director, Forest Whitaker.
MGMs: Fulham Road 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (792 3332)

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking. Intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

MUTE WITNESS (18): Mute girl witnesses a film studio murder. Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, directed by Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

DONALD COOPER

Olwen Fouéré (Cod), Alexis Daniel (Brandon) and Lisa Gaye Dixon (Roach) in Naomi Wallace's bloody political allegory, *Slaughter City*

Sausage and mishmash

Slaughter City
Barbican Pit

The Pit is not a place in which one would choose to take a package holiday or even a relaxing tea-break; but it can never have looked more offputting than it does for Naomi Wallace's new play. Gouts of fresh red blood splatter both the bare stage and the slats of plastic dangling at the back. Gobs of drying blood are scraped by blood-stained workers from inside the pigs' heads that shunt past, dangling from bloody hooks. This is an American slaughterhouse and sausage-factory, the kind that Upton Sinclair evoked 90 years ago and, if Wallace is to be believed, still exists in her native South.

Since the freezing weather had sent me to the theatre wearing a beaver hat, and a friend had just told me he had been assaulted by animal rights fanatics for just such a crime, I felt more than usually queasy. Was the play going to make us feel guilty for being insufficiently sensitive to our furred, feathered and pelted siblings? As it turned out, Wallace's point was more human and, if you'll forgive me, more old hat. The pigs' heads, the offal, the slabs of meat in sinister white muslin are largely emblematic: it is the workers who are being sliced, scraped, minced and turned into sausage-meat.

At root, this is a traditional Marxist protest-play. There has been a strike at the factory against the new contract the bosses are imposing on the workers. Wages are low, ugly accidents occur. A young man dies after inhaling ammonia, and still gets no sympathy from the company manager, a trigger-happy eccentric with a passion for cleanliness and physical exercise.

All this could have been written by Odets for New York's Group Theatre in the 1930s; but it comes with a good deal of quirky modern twists and surreal decoration. Two of the main characters are ghosts from the past who haunt the present and, it seems, are likely to be around a lot in the future. Cod (Olwen Fouéré) came from the womb of a seamstress who plunged to her death after her sweatshop went up in flames, and now foments resistance to capitalism in coalmine and slaughterhouse. The Sausage Man (Robert Langdon Lloyd) stalks about in Edwardian dress with a mincing-machine strapped to his waist, saying things like: "Was there ever an empire without slaves or history without the poor?"

Oddities proliferate. Why is Cod a woman disguised as a man? Why does the Sausage Man, in defiance of his self-interest, urge her to continue the class war? Why does the black foreman (Rudolph Walker) strip to his underpants and pose on a chair? Why does the youngest, battiest worker (Alexis Daniel) start making love to a side of beef? Why the transvestism and the lesbianism? There is a line somewhere about sex being the worker's assertion of selfhood, but that hardly explains all the obscurities.

I suspect this play will be widely disliked, and I have to confess that Ron Daniels's cast, which also boasts the excellent Linal Haft as the crazy manager and Sophie Stanton as the sulky queen of the killing-rooms, did not leave me enthralled. But behind the piece's simplicities and its fake-complexities, *there is quality in the writing*. Not many Americans write about politics these days. Precious few try to bring imagination to the task or make their dialogue sing, as Wallace sometimes does. If she fails, it is in style.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Variety, the stodge of life

Comic Cuts
Lyric Studio, W6

THIS is another play set in the vanished world of Variety, circa 1951. And like every play about that world, you emerge happy to have been spared any first-hand knowledge of it.

I don't know what it is about the subject. Playwrights from Osborne onwards set off to tell you how it was, or use Variety as a metaphor for something — in Osborne's case, for England, believe it or not — and the assumption is that at some time in the past, these shows offered a great night out. Occasionally they may have done. But the artistes we meet in these plays are such a dreadful crew, you feel grateful that the onset of television finished most of them off.

The opening of Jack Shepherd's play gives every indication that its subject is to be Variety in its latter days. Some modestly billed singer has collapsed at Sunderland and, to replace him at Leeds, young Janey Shore has been sent up from London. Her popularity demands top billing, which means the Number 1 dressing-room, but these are claimed by the comedian Reg Henson. What will happen when the two meet?

Pathetically little. Partly because Reg starts throwing the furniture around, but chiefly because Janey doesn't mind having the Number 2 dressing-room. "All this fuss about billing," she murmurs helpfully. We presume she doesn't mean this but no, she is truly a lass of sweetness and light, happy to help the drunken sot into his clothes for the six o'clock house and even to press his trousers — and not with a hot iron — while he's wearing them. End of conflict.

What Shepherd must be trying to do is give us the day-to-day taste of Variety, the furtive snogging, the absurd conceit. But he makes none of this interesting and defies probability by allowing everyone to linger in the star's dressing-room all the time.

Gavin Richards does a John Prescott scowl as the comedian, Carla Mendonça is tremendously polite, Chris Wilkinson's theatre manager is harassed. The white-walled set is harshly lit. Jonathan Church's direction is dull. I was glad when it was over.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Marcus Binney on how lottery money should be used to preserve and improve our public spaces

A green and pleasant land?

City parks are the new beneficiaries of National Lottery largesse. Today, the Heritage Lottery Fund will announce a nationwide programme of £50 million over three years aimed at jump-starting town councils in a race for funds. With parks, the trustees are including town squares, seaside promenade gardens, cemeteries, even the Town Moor in Newcastle.

Anyone visiting the great tent at the Chelsea Flower Show and admiring the fantastic displays of carpet bedding put on by Birmingham and Torquay might be forgiven for asking what the problem is.

But problem there is. A harrowing joint report by the Garden History Society and the Victorian Society in 1993 found "local authorities in near despair as parks which were attractive places only four or five years ago fall into accelerating decline".

The superb 1872 Gothic memorial fountain in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow, was restored in 1988 at a cost of £158,000, only to be vandalised again. At Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, the boathouse restored in 1990 at a cost of £70,000 was burnt down three years later.

Some councils have seen parks as rundown land providing opportunities for quick-fix deals with developers. "This park was erected by public subscription and destroyed by corporate intrigue" proclaimed a plaque erected in Penn Inn Park at Newton Abbot. Worcester council tried to justify building a supermarket in Cripplegate Park, saying: "People just "walked through it". To vandalism must be added fears about safety. A report by Comedia, the arts consultancy, asks: "Is the keeperless park, like the unstaffed railway station, the poorly lit underground car park and the deserted town centre at night, going to become yet another ghost zone of modern Britain?"

It all began, says the Victorian Society, during the Second World War, when cast-iron park railings and gates were torn up as part of Lord Beaverbrook's campaign to bring home the message of total war to the masses. Park keepers were evicted from their Victorian lodges; parks could no longer be kept secure.

Yet when these parks were first created, they were one of the wonders of Britain. Americans arriving by steamer at Liverpool would do their first sightseeing in Birkenhead Park, designed by the great Sir Joseph Paxton. Frederick Law Olmsted later said Birkenhead was the inspiration for his Central Park in New York.

Public paths, like public baths, libraries and museums, were part of a great Victorian drive to improve living standards in cities. John Ruskin wrote: "The measure of any great civilisation is its cities and a measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares." Northern industrial towns took the lead. The most ambitious Victorian parks were laid out in cities such as Halifax, Liverpool, Manchester and Preston. Leading garden designers such as John Claudius Loudon, Edward Milner, Thomas Mawson and Paxton went to work.

For all their problems, parks remain popular. Today some 40 per cent of the population use parks regularly — as many as eight million people a day. The first role for lottery funds must be to rekindle the lost beauties of these parks. Too many once-fine city parks look little more than playing fields scattered with trees. "Layouts have gradually been adapted to suit the convenience of tractors and mowers," says Comedia.

In Berlin, brilliant work has been done by the landscape architect Michael Seiler at Glienicke Park. By careful excavation, he first found the foundations of the original meandering paths, then he raised the hillocks to provide the points of view originally intended. Painstaking garden archaeology is the key to effective restoration. Without it money can be badly spent.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is willing to support the purchase of land where appropriate. But the Millennium Commission needs to join forces and encourage the creation of wholly new parks. One of the most exciting I have seen recently is a park in Barcelona created on the site of an old factory, retaining walls, columns and arches to provide shade, shelter and surprise.

Fresh thought needs to be given to the role of architecture in parks. Local councils often neglected fine country houses that came with parks, believing them to be out of place. Regency Elswick Hall in Newcastle was demolished. Grovelands in Southgate, north London, nearly went the same way. Yet, as Comedia points out, parks are excellent places for a range of cultural and community buildings. The little-used mansion in Gunnersbury Park, in west London, should be top of the list.

Good projects are already underway. At Sefton Park in Liverpool, a group of Friends is tackling the magnificent ornamental Palm House which opened 100 years ago and has fallen into complete decay. They have raised £40,000 to make it safe. Now the Friends are looking for £1 million to complete the project. Impossible? Perhaps not — English Heritage has promised £300,000, the EC is financing a business plan and may chip in another third, and the Heritage fund could close the financial gap.

But the stark fact remains that much of the lottery investment will be at risk unless security in many parks is dramatically improved. The safest parks are the royal parks in London because they have their own police force, 200 strong. Wandsworth and Holland Park have their own police too. Now Greenwich Park has joined them.

David Welch, the director of the royal parks, encourages his police to walk, ride and cycle around the parks. "People will talk to you spontaneously if you are on a horse," one constable says. "And it does wonders these days for the public to see we are flesh and blood."

Park users around Britain should urge local councils to follow London's lead. Lord Rothschild, the chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, could just find that the restoration of ornamental park lodges proves to be the best investment of all.

HOWARD BARLOW

The Palm House in Sefton Park, Liverpool: local people have raised money to protect the 100-year-old structure; the lottery could finish the job

CONCERTS

Barbican brass batter Bruckner

LSO/Davis
Barbican

IN A recent interview Colin Davis referred to the difficulties of conducting Bruckner in halls where the acoustics lack natural resonance, such as the Barbican. The Barbican, however, is where the London Symphony Orchestra's Bruckner/Mozart cycle is unfolding, and the second concert, last Thursday, rammed home his point with a vengeance.

The symphony was the Sixth, with as rousing a series of climaxes as Bruckner provided anywhere in his cycle. But those climaxes were, especially for those of us in the direct line of fire, a disagreeable experience. The LSO's brass section is not known for its reticence, but never had I heard it produce such a strident, ear-splitting sound. Any sense of Bruckner's sonorous textures being irradiated by mellow brass went out of the window. Instead, we had unyielding, granite-like masses of sound, devoid of excitement or inner life.

There were, to be sure, many fine, isolated moments in all four movements. The Adagio in particular had vibrancy and passion, but always there was a tendency to push on too hard, instead of letting the momentum build of its own accord.

Those vulnerable interstices in the structure, where the tensions unravel before being wound up again, also proved a weak point for both conductor and strings — the latter's ensemble perhaps reflecting a general loss of concentration.

In this context, lightweight, slightly prettified Mozart contrasted more sharply than ever with aggressive, supercharged Bruckner. But Davis supplied delightfully buoyant, well-sprung tuttis in the B flat Piano Concerto, K456, which proved to be an ideal backdrop for Mitsuko Uchida's lithe, superbly nuanced rendering of the solo part. The delicacy with which she phrased the opening of the Andante forced one to listen more intently than ever.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Dial T for torment

RPO/Mackerras
Butterworth Hall, Warwick

ALL that is needed to stage Poulenc's last opera, *La Voix humaine*, is a period telephone and a bed or chaise longue for the sole protagonist to recline on. Given those things, it can be as effective in the concert hall as anywhere else.

This performance in the Butterworth Hall might have been stronger in a more intimate space. On the other hand, the orchestra would have been confined to the pit rather than arrayed on the platform, as it was on this occasion, on equal terms with the soprano soloist.

It takes a situation such as this, and a conductor with the acute dramatic awareness of Sir Charles Mackerras, not only to demonstrate how eloquent the orchestra part is, but also to reveal how involved the composer is in the process of moral collapse. For Jean Cocteau in 1930, *La Voix humaine* was a *tour de force* of extended monologue. For Poulenc in 1958, it was a confrontation with depression.

For the soprano who performs it, *La Voix humaine* is both those things at once. It is a recitative of thousands of words within 40 minutes of music. It is also a public experience of intense emotional stress. Sustaining a vocal line which is nothing more than an extension of the natural rhythms and inflections of speech in a crisis, Felicity Lott gave a disturbing performance.

Before the interval Mackerras had conducted the RPO in three works by Ravel. There was no lack of lyrical charm in the *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* or in the *Tombeau de Couperin*, but *La Valse* is a different matter. Certainly, the first half is as engaging and sensuous as he and the orchestra made it. The second half is more obsessive and ultimately destructive: it needs to be set on its vertiginous career much earlier than it was here.

GERALD LARNER

Now is the winter of our content

RECITAL

Ian Bostridge
Wigmore Hall

No need to beat about the bush. This was, quite simply, some of the finest singing the Wigmore Hall has heard in the past ten years. The voice, the mind and the imagination belonged to the young tenor Ian Bostridge.

On the bleakest of midwinter nights, he took his audience on two winter journeys: Schubert's in his great last song cycle, and Britten's on the Great Western, in the company of Thomas Hardy and his *Winter Words*. It was a remarkable ending to the Wigmore Hall's four-month series of The Britten Songs; and thank goodness Radio 3 was there to record it — such a fusion of youthfulness of voice with freshness of instinct, emotional urgency with quickness of intellect, is rare indeed.

Schubert was the same age — barely 30 — when he wrote *Winterreise*; and it is only frost which silvers the hair of the poet's young Wanderer. So Bostridge and his accompanist, Julius Drake, set out with a brisk, light tread along the snowy path. But horror follows hard on the traveller's heels. Within long, concentrated lines of song, Bostridge would yelp through a vowel of pain — at the wind's lashing, at his staring reflection in the stream.

Schubert's melodic line frequently took on a new strength and intensity. At times Bostridge would uncover the heart of a folk song beating in Schubert's writing, at others he would momentarily withdraw all vibrato from his voice, leaving it as white and matt as the winter sky.

At *Einsamkeit*, that song of aching loneliness halfway through the cycle, Bostridge's performance ended. This was partly in order to accommodate the Britten, but also to offer the rare experience of Schubert's original cycle of just 12 songs, starting and ending, as this performance did, in the same key. Only later did the composer discover and set more poems — and there is still some debate about the ordering of the whole.

Bostridge's journey had its own convincingly self-contained character. And one knew, from the way he and Drake wrestled with its final wretchedness, what we would be in for in that last repeated question of "How long, how long?" in Britten's cycle.

This final poem, *Before Life and After*, can read like a painful — and painfully wordy — Hardy whinge. Britten's music, though, elevates it to a real lament for human existence and it is impossible not to hear Britten's own responses to *Winterreise* pulsing through the cycle as a whole. Bostridge dipped and dived with the wagtail. With all the story of this little satire alive in the words, he had no need for coy visual performing.

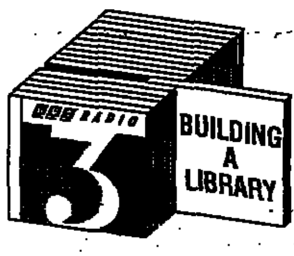
As if this were not enough, Bostridge and Drake also performed Britten's *Um Mitternacht*, four of Goethe's poems set by Schubert and still had strength enough and time — just — for two encores including Schubert's *Abschied*. Bostridge must not trot away for long.

HILARY FINCH

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BEETHOVEN'S *MISSA SOLEMNIS*
Reviewed by John Deathridge



Beethoven wrote the *Missa solemnis* for the installation of his friend and patron Archduke Rudolph as Archbishop of Olmütz in Moravia. He missed the deadline by three years and was unable to attend the only full performance in his lifetime (St Petersburg, 1824).

For professional musicians, its complexities are notorious. Karajan recorded it four times, and even he admitted publicly that it is a very difficult work to direct. Three of Karajan's versions are still available from DG and EMI and all betray serious musical problems (not necessarily the composer's) with their elongated tempos, veiled textures and fake religious atmosphere.

Most of the other 18 recordings using large forces are not much better. An outstanding exception is Toscanini (RCA GD 60272), who turns the arcane Bachian devices of Beethoven's fugal choruses into a kind of divine madness. Another is Klemperer's justly famous version with the New Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra (EMI CMS 7 69538-2), with its powerful choral presence and telling musical detail. Also worth considering are Bernstein's energetic 1960 recording (Sony Classical SM2K 47522), hampered only by an acoustically challenged chorus, and Levine's operatic reading with megastar soloists (DG 435 770-2), which tries to live up to the inscription in the score ("from the heart — may it go again to the heart").

Harnoncourt increases the tension of his performance (Teldec 9031-74884-2) with slimmer resources that stress the audible effort and strain he thinks are "essential" in Beethoven's concept of the Mass. There are good things in this astringent reading, but the let's-all-grit-our-teeth approach smacks too much of the old myth of the misanthropic Beethoven locked in heroic struggle with his muse. So does Gardiner's relentless conducting in an accurate performance with the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists from Archiv.

Two other recordings using period instruments make the best musical sense. Terjes Kvam's with the Hanover Band (Nimbus NI 5109) is very lively indeed, although it has problems of balance. Most interesting of all, however, is **Philippe Herreweghe's** deliberately small-scale reading (Harmonia Mundi HMC 901557, £13.95) with its supple control of the music and, above all, its refreshing calm. Whoever thought the old misanthrope's spiritual message could sound like this?

● *Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Smetana's* Má Vlast

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SPECIAL REPORT ON *Sleep*

Day One of a two-part series on the mystery that rules a third of our life

TOMORROW

A guide to the latest cures for the sleepless

Science closes in on riddle of insomnia

Anjana Ahuja explains the complex controls which are locked within our brains

Delving into the brain has given scientists the best insight into what happens during sleep. From the discovery in 1953 that sleep was composed of REM (rapid eye movement) and non-REM sleep, and that each caused a distinctive pattern of electrical activity in the brain, the most exciting research has focused on the workings of this complex organ.

The foremost centre for work in Europe is the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University, headed by Professor James Horne. He has shown that the area of the brain most clearly connected with sleep is the frontal area of the cerebral cortex. This busy part of the brain is responsible for speech, short-term memory and flexible thinking.

"Our bodies relax during the day but not our brains, and the frontal area of the cerebral cortex is most in need of relaxation," says Professor Horne. Interestingly, a form of schizophrenia is associated with the same area of the brain, and Professor Horne recently wrote in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* of his discovery that symptoms shown by sleep-deprived people and schizophrenics coincide.

Inevitably, the brain and the processes within it have provided the basis of the newest theory of why we sleep. Dr James Krueger, from the University of Tennessee in Memphis, believes that since sleep involves nerve cells, it must require the use of the junctions between neighbouring nerve cells. Many of these junctions, called synapses, lie almost dormant during wakefulness. Therefore, sleep exercises the synapses. His paper appeared last month in the journal *Behavioural Brain Research.*

"Synapses, which allow signals to pass between nerve cells, are not permanent entities. They are like plastic, and sleep organises that plasticity in some way," says Dr Krueger. He adds that this theory implies that both REM and non-REM sleep contribute to this plasticity. This echoes the theory of sleep favoured by Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA.

An understanding of sleep in neural terms begs the question of what sequence of chemical changes on the brain causes us to sleep. The substances most closely linked with sleep fall into two main groups — hormones and neurotransmitters. Early studies showed that serotonin, the best-known neurotransmitter, is essential for sleep because if nerve cells containing it are destroyed the result is insomnia.

This question has been considered by Dr Krueger. "We looked at a chemical called growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH), which is found in the area of the brain regulating sleep," he says. "If you give this hormone to humans they sleep longer than they normally would, and if you deprive them they sleep less."

But the connection between GHRH and sleep is, according to Dr Krueger, just one link in a chain of chemical interactions. Nitric oxide is involved somewhere, he believes, since inhibiting nitric oxide in the brain causes sleep deficiency and increasing it causes the subject to sleep more. Altering the amount of a substance called interleukin I has the same effect.

Another approach which has yielded fascinating results is sleep deprivation. Dr Allan Rechtschaffen, from the Sleep Research Laboratory at the University of Chicago, sleep-deprived rats to see what happened to them physiologically. "If deprived for long enough, they died," he says.

It takes between two and three weeks to kill the rats in this way. If the animals are deprived only of REM sleep, they die after seven weeks. During these experiments, the physiological changes that the rats undergo are monitored. "The temperature regulation becomes compromised," Dr Rechtschaffen says. At the beginning of the experiment, their temperature goes up as they try to seek warmth. Later, even though the metabolic rate is increased, the temperature starts falling.

However, heart rate, muscle tone and electrical brain activity remain virtually constant until the day before death, suggesting that sleep does not rest the body. According to Dr Rechtschaffen, the exact cause of death is a mystery.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of sleep research concerns the hormone melatonin, which has been touted as an instant remedy to disturbed body rhythms.

However, this minor miracle is not as rosy as it sounds. Professor Fred Turek, from Northwestern University in Illinois, writes in this week's issue of *Nature* that the scientific data apparently showing its benefits have been misinterpreted, and fiddling with the hormone, which is produced in the pineal gland, can be dangerous.

The cycle of light and dark regulates the production and release of melatonin into the blood. When the pineal gland is removed, or the supply of melatonin artificially made constant, the 24-hour rhythm in activity is disrupted. This has implications for sleeping patterns, which is why melatonin was seized upon as the "magic bullet" for jet-lagged executives and shift-workers.

Professor Turek points out that melatonin has not been clinically tested to a sufficiently stringent level to evaluate its toxicity. Similar concerns in Britain have led to melatonin being taken off the shelves and made available by prescription only.

Professor Horne promises a provocative paper on the subject of melatonin in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Sleep Research*, which he edits. "On this issue Fred Turek is spot-on," he says.

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Out to the world at the office. Exactly how our brain puts us to sleep — and why — are questions still fascinating scientists

A sleepless crisis

Anxiety about poor sleep is turning into a national preoccupation as insomnia becomes a badge of courage among the executive classes. Dinner guests confess their sleeplessness and swap favourite remedies as young City firebrands used to compare ulcer treatments in the 1980s.

The surge of interest has roused the medical establishment. There are now more than two dozen sleep clinics at hospitals around the country, many run by ear, nose and throat surgeons.

No one knows how many people suffer insomnia — estimates range from one in three to one in 15 of the populaton — but the sale of "natural" sleep remedies has soared. Most are based on antihistamines or herbal concoctions such as valerian, camomile, passion flower and rosemary. Boots stocks at least ten products that aid sleep in a market estimated to be worth £12 million.

Research to be published shortly, suggests that insomniacs may be turning to natural cures because GPs are showing increasing reluctance to prescribe sleeping pills. More than 11 million prescriptions are written for them each year, but the number is falling.

Worry about sleep is as great a problem as sleeplessness itself. "The way we interpret our bodily state is affected by many factors other than sleep, such as mood," says Chris Idzikowski, a psychologist and chairman of the British Sleep Society. Nothing better illustrates the changed attitude to sleep than the afternoon ziz now taken by pinstriped executives who grab a ten-minute "power nap" with their head on the desk.

Insomnia has become a badge of courage at the office

Power napping is the latest, Californian, way to revitalise yourself. The trick is to sleep for just long enough to recharge your batteries, but not so long it leaves you groggy for the rest of the day.

Ten minutes is all that is necessary according to some experts, although others are sceptical that this is long enough to permit genuine sleep. Accessories include goggles, calming tapes, little Japanese head blocks to place on the desk and lotus chairs at £150 each.

Lack of sleep is an under-recognised health hazard. An American study concluded that 90 per cent of industrial accidents and 200,000 car accidents a year were linked with lack of sleep. The Chernobyl explosion, the Challenger space shuttle disaster and and the Exxon Valdez oil spill were all blamed on tired workers.

"Like mental illness, sleeplessness has been something we have trivialised and laughed about for too long," says Dr Idzikowski.

JEREMY LAURANCE

A jumbo disturbs us less than a baby's cry

A mother is more likely to wake to the cry of her child than to a jumbo jet roaring overhead, according to research into the relationship between sleep and noise.

A restless partner or a barking dog also seem to affect a good night's sleep more than living under a noisy flightpath.

Hearing is the one sense that cannot be shut down during sleep, and so without earplugs any external noise is registered by the brain and matched by a quickening of the heartbeat. Even so, Professor James Horne, from the Sleep Research Laboratory, believes that the body can be far more resilient to continual noise than we imagine and is able to adapt to it.

A study into the effects of aircraft noise by researchers from Loughborough, Manchester Metropolitan and Southampton universities tested 400 people who lived near airports. They were monitored as they slept with instruments which measured their level of bodily activity and disturbance through the night.

THE NOISE FACTOR

Sleep study at Stanford University, California

The study found that while many people thought they had often been disturbed by the aircraft, on average they awoke fully only once every ten days, no matter which airport they lived near. "On the whole, people were not even aroused," Professor Horne says. "This indicates the body's ability to adapt to noise during sleep."

Bed partners and children are more likely to wake you up, he says. "And we also found that younger women were more disturbed by the cries of children than their partners. Men's sleep was generally more disturbed overall, however."

The study also showed that the body differentiated between sudden and continuous noise. "A car door slamming is likely to wake you up, whereas a train or plane builds its noise up slowly," Professor Horne says.

Dr Ken Hume, principal lecturer of human physiology at Manchester Metropolitan University, is investigating the relationship between noise and bodily arousal that may not result in waking.

"Our heart rate and muscles respond to noise in our sleep. We constantly move around," he says. "But we don't know how significant these small bodily changes are."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

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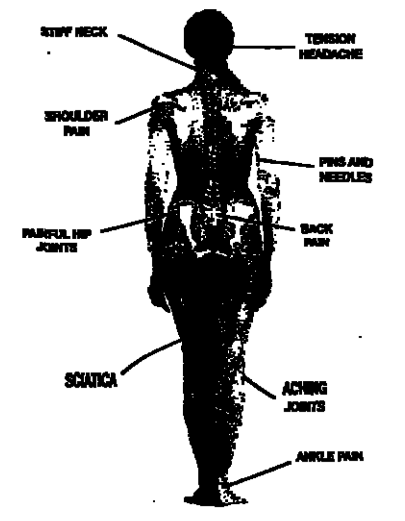

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T24

☐ Nature's clock ☐ Sleepy cells . . . and dreaming computers

What makes life tick

EVERY creature, from a single-celled bacterium to a human being, has a clock that beats out an insistent daily rhythm. Thanks to this inbuilt chronometer, plants know when to spread their leaves and human beings when to go to sleep.

Scientists have tried for decades to identify how the clock works. Understanding it is basic research, but ultimately their work might help to cure some forms of insomnia, or identify ways of dealing with jet lag.

The clock certainly does not depend on the daily cycle of night and day, although the cycle may provide a means of resetting it from time to time. That was proved long ago by a botanist, Karl Hamner, who took plants and animals to the South Pole, spun them in the opposite direction to the Earth's rotation, and found that their rhythms persisted.

Recently a team from the United States has helped to unravel the operation of the clock in fruit flies, by isolating a gene called timeless, or tim for short. In flies with a mutation in this gene, the circadian rhythms go awry. This gene is not the first to be found — more than 20 years ago a similar gene, named per for period, was also discovered in fruit flies.

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

Both per and tim affect the rhythms, but neither on its own is enough to create a clock. The fact that the production of the per protein goes up and down on a 24-hour cycle, as it does, could be effect rather than cause.

But in a series of papers recently published in *Science*, scientists from Rockefeller University in New York, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard Medical School have laid out an elegant explanation of how the two work together, like mainspring and escapement, to create the rhythms.

Like all genes, the job of tim and per is to carry the recipe for their own proteins. The evidence is that the two proteins work together to control their own production.

Per protein accumulates in the cytoplasm — the region of the cell outside the nucleus where the genes are found. At a certain moment, per combines with tim, and is thereby enabled to enter the nucleus and turn off its own production. The theory, which comes from Dr Michael Young and colleagues at Rockefeller University, is that per on its own is unstable, so cannot build up to a sufficient level unless it binds with tim, which stabilises it.

That explains why the process causes oscillation. The gene can be turned off only when per has bound to tim, by which time quite a lot of per has been produced. Without this two-stage process, cells would simply settle at an intermediate level of per production, with no rhythmic oscillation.

There is still plenty to explain, such as how the clock regulates other cells, and how it can be reset. But it is a striking step forward in a bewildering field.

A switch in our heads

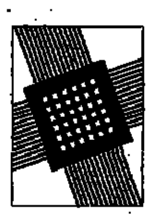
DROPPING off to sleep sometimes feels like turning a switch. In fact, according to recent research from Harvard Medical School and the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, that is exactly what it *is* like.

Dr Clifford Saper and colleagues have identified a group of nerve cells in the region of the brain called the hypothalamus which, unlike the rest, become more active when we go to sleep. This, they believe, is because these cells are a kind of master-switch which functions by turning off the arousal systems in the brain.

The researchers found that cells in the ventrolateral preoptic area of the hypothalamus are linked to other cells which are the source of the neurotransmitters histamine, norepinephrine and serotonin. These are all involved in alertness, which is why anti-histamine pills cause drowsiness.

People who cannot easily fall asleep, says Dr Saper, may have a fault in this master-switch.

Perchance to dream . . .



A computer that can sleep has thrown new light on the process of dreaming, suggesting that it is essential to making sense of the world.

Dr Geoffrey Hinton and colleagues from the University of Toronto built two neural nets — computers based on the brain — and wired them together in an analogy of the cortex, the part of the brain responsible for sight and conscious thought.

They then taught the system to recognise patterns. It worked best if the net used to turn pictures into representations was used to train the net used to turn the representations back into pictures — and *vice versa.*

If one of these states represents wakefulness, and the other sleep, the result implies that both are needed to train the brain effectively. Each makes the other better until they both work well. So perhaps the brain learns by a dialogue between different levels that takes place both awake and asleep.

From Toxteth to the Sahara

THE TES GOING PLACES
OUT FRIDAY

This Friday The Times Educational Supplement publishes Going Places, a 48-page magazine bursting with ideas and inspiration for all kinds of school trips.

We follow twenty five students from an inner-city comprehensive in Liverpool as they travel 8,000 miles overland to the western Sahara.

From farms to historical sites, from ancient China to David Hockney, Going Places is packed with information on every type of venue.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT TES

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

From Romo to Como, it's hip again to be romantic or square

The golden age of tartan and peroxide has returned to the clubs. **Giles Coren** on the latest nostalgia on the dance floor

The new New Romantics: the revival is pure gold for nightclubs such as the Arcadia, which are buzzing with the old hits of the 1980s

IT WAS not until the second synthesised bass chord of *View To A Kill* had shuddered out of the walls that the skinny kid with PVC trousers, asymetric make-up and glitter-sprinkled cheekbones got up from his chair. He emptied his beer and flicked his girlish quiff from his face with manicured, long-nailed fingers.

On the dance floor he adopted a crucifixion pose: head bowed to his chest, legs crossed at the ankles and arms outspread, with fingers pointing to the sky. The dance was all narrative: for "view" he shaded his eyes with his white hands, for "kill" he fired an imaginary revolver. His lips told the story in time with each of Simon Le Bon's silvery words.

He had come a long way from Britpop, with its scruffy sweaters, honest guitar-led melodies, social realism and frenetic dance moves. He had bought wholesale into London's latest retro explosion, Romo.

Romo is a resuscitation of the New Romantic "movement" — that golden age of tartan and peroxide before pop got a conscience, which was born with Roxy Music's first album in 1972 and reached its apogee at the turn of the 1980s with Duran Duran, ABC, Spandau Ballet and Japan.

Since the very beginning, pop-pickers have hopped between grimy authenticity and up-beat Technicolor-style flappery. At the birth of rock'n'roll, girls in bobby socks teddy-boogied to Bill Haley in defiance of their Perry Como-loving parents. In the 1960s, the Rolling Stones saw that the Beatles were nicely dressed and pretty — and reacted by being ugly and scruffy. Then came the seriousness of 1970s progressive rock, tempered by the frivolity of disco and Gary Glitter's glam rock, itself stamped out by the rawness and ripped T-shirts of Punk.

The first New Romantics reverted to a heavily produced sound, and dressed up, instead of down, but in 1985 Live Aid ushered in a new age of grungy realism. So after ten years of "honesty", from Annie Lennox and Mick Hucknall to Oasis, it is hardly surprising that clubbers are returning to the electronic sound and fancy dress of Romo, tipped by *Melody Maker* to see off Britpop in 1996.

At Arcadia, a weekly Romo club at Madame Jojo's in Soho, the clothes are as extravagant as ever. "It is all about fun," says a 24-year-old who called himself Blaze. "The first time around I loved the music but was too young to go to the clubs. Until now I just raved like anyone else, but I would always dress beautifully and think futuristically, and we started bands that fused a trip-hop mentality with Martin Fry haircuts. The clothes often come from my sister, who was a hardcore Durannie. But the Byron shirt is mine and so are the PVC trousers and monk boots."

After an hour or so of Kraftwerk, Human League, and Visage, the first live act appears. Sin With Sebastian involves a skinny blond Frenchman wrapped in kitchen foil and a podgy girl in Louis XVI costume miming "shut up, and sleep with me . . . " over and over again. And the dancers who vogued quite happily to Gary Numan stand silent. According to *Melody Maker*, however, it is likely, to be this year's biggest seller.

"It's not what I came for," says a man in a blue boob tube and zebra-striped fake fur bum-freezer. "But there has to be new music, otherwise it would be just another retro wave. We're not in it for nostalgia. We're in it because we have miserable, grotty lives and this is a chance for glamour. Everything Oasis have to say, we know already." His name is Keith and he works as an exhaust fitter in Bromley.

"The lads wouldn't bat an eyelid if they saw me," he says. "It isn't like being in the closet — it's performance, it's my social life. But I don't dress like this when I'm under a Volvo."

Blitzed: Steve Strange

The clothes, the make-up, the androgyny all contribute to an atmosphere that is appropriately *fin de siècle* — but it seems strangely out of touch in the self-aware 1990s: New Romance, indeed, was the last great explosion of camp into the mainstream before Aids.

"I don't look like a girl," says a 19-year-old called Jim, who looks like a girl. "I am an androgyne. And I am neither gay nor straight. I am Romosexual."

The problem, as explained by an aged specimen called Lee (a veteran of Steve Strange's Blitz club in Covent Garden, heart of the first New Romantic wave) is this: "In the old days we wore frilly shirts and tights and boots to dress up as Romantics, you know, like Byron. This lot are dressed as New Romantics — it's a revival of a revival. It's just a lot of rubbish dreamt up by the music press to give themselves something new to play with."

Unfortunately for Lee, his very presence at Arcadia went some way to validating the movement he scorned. Dancing expressively to the oldies and waving a quite spectacular flick, he was one of the few who had got it, *retro*spectively speaking, right. For most of the clubbers were so recently out of thin V-neck jerseys and jeans that their pudding-bowl haircuts had not had time to grow into anything flickable (the Princess of Wales circa 1981 is the ideal), nor had they quite assimilated the studied posing of Lee and his entourage to their gleeful bouncing — a dance *non grata* in Romo.

But, with a little more time, and careful observation of the period slide-show that lights up one of Arcadia's walls, they will soon breathe new life into the dinosaur, and perhaps even come up with something new.

To recapture the mood they must heed the anthemic advice of Spandau Ballet's greatest hit, they must always believe in their soul, they have the power to know, they're indestructible. They are gold.

In with the out crowd: Exploring the club scene where cheesy is cool and Burt has never been away

THE EASY listening boom, the worship of Burt Bacharach, Mike Flowers, clubs such as Indigo and City Cheese — is it for real, or is someone having us on?

Without witnessing this phenomenon at first hand, the irony is a little too hot to handle. But downstairs at Cort's Wine Bar in Holborn, central London, last Saturday, initiati of City Cheese were giving it, to use a suitably cheesy term, the full monte.

Cheese, to the modern clubber, is anything their parents would *not* tell them to turn down or take off. A girl who comes downstairs dressed for a night at City Cheese is likely to be told by her mother: "I hope you think you're going out in that." The music which 1950s musicians fled to create rock'n'roll is back. Perry Como is *in*. It really is hip to be square.

The tune that greeted my arrival was a far cry from the familiar mind-numbing throb of gansta rap or gabba techno: "Where? There on the stair," sang the sound system, "a little mouse with clogs on . . . "

Men in tight Pringle jumpers, reminiscent of Alan Partridge, danced with girls in gold lamé evening dresses. Others, in their mid-to-late twenties, drank beer or cocktails and wore lounge suits with open shirts, although the true hardcore went for broad-check suits with dark brown shirts and wide ties. There were no trainers or bottles of mineral water. The atmosphere was unsettlingly . . . *nice*.

There was karaoke, a complementary fax machine for sending cheesy messages, and a bucket in which to drop your business card for the champagne prize draw. And the irony? I was way behind. For a start the emcee was called Fred Leicester, a joke lost on me until someone drew my attention to it.

Square: Dolores Gray, Perry Como

I wondered what level of self-awareness was operating. "Everyone knows what they're doing," said John, a 28-year-old diehard easy-listener. "They would have been embarrassed to do this five years ago, but now it is perfect."

As he spoke, the theme tune from *Hawaii Five-O* boomed into action. We had Herb Alpert, the Carpenters, *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head*, the Milk Tray advert.

It must be said, there were a lot of very square people at City Cheese. The sort who once danced to *You're The One That I Want* and stayed in to watch *The Sky At Night*. Suddenly there is a place for them to go. But then again, the revival of 1970s hip means that bad sports coats and man-made fabrics are cool again. So is the bloke with the polyester shirt and Prince Harry haircut a genuine dweeb? Or is he right there at the cutting edge of cool?

GILES COREN

GLOSSARY OF POP

Britpop: A manifestation of British popular music harking back to the bare essentials of the Stones and the Beatles. Fans are usually young, smelly and stoned.
Grunge: A kind of music whose fans look and smell like Britpop fans, but began in Seattle and are now mostly dead.
Trip-hop: A British club phenomenon of dislocated character, notoriously difficult to dance to.
Gabba Techno: Repetitive heart-stopping beat with a sound overlayed not unlike the hiss of an untuned television.
Vogueing: A form of dancing popularised by Madonna, which mimics catwalk models.
Martin Fry: ABC lead singer, famed for his flicked hair.
Oasis: Exponents, like Blur and Pulp, of *Britpop* (qv).
Cheese: Unfashionable music enjoyed with a combination of irony and genuine pleasure.

Why are these doctors so arrogant?

The novelist **Meg Henderson** describes her bitter frustration as she is patronised and ignored in her struggle to have her mentally ill daughter sterilised

Last month I wrote of our problems in having our daughter sterilised. Two years ago, Louise, then 16 and with a history of mental handicap and autism, was diagnosed as psychotic. She will not recover.

Because of early abuse before we adopted her, and her lack of inhibitions and social skills, Louise has always been sexually provocative: the only way we had of protecting her was to monitor her constantly.

Last November, her psychiatrist contacted me to say that while Louise was in the adolescent psychiatric unit she would be mixing with male patients and was obviously vulnerable sexually. She wanted Louise to have some form of contraception, and suggested a three-monthly injection rather than the Pill. It was our opinion — shared by our GP — that sterilisation was the best long-term solution for our daughter.

She will never be able to care for herself, so caring for a child is out of the question, and then there is the problem of what a child conceived by two mentally handicapped/mentally ill people would be like.

For the psychiatrist there were moral and ethical difficulties with this, though we found it hard to understand precisely what these were. "Fascism" was one, "ethnic cleansing" was also mentioned, "the right of the mentally ill to decide for themselves", and "her inability to give informed consent".

I told the psychiatrist that we would take other advice, and, if necessary, go to court for permission to have Louise sterilised. In the meantime we wanted it clearly understood

sation with the psychiatrist, I was told that nothing would be done without our consent.

Louise came home for Christmas, wandering about the house with the earphones of her personal stereo clamped to her head, the volume turned up full in a vain attempt to drown out the "voices" that she hears. Intermittently, she shrieked with laughter at what her voices were saying, and smiled or frowned at the faces she sees on the walls.

She took no part in family life, but told her sister, with whom she shared a room, that she "had had an injection to

about this she denied it completely; she had been told not to tell mummy.

It took me ten days of phone calls to track down the psychiatrist, and to have her confirm that the first contraceptive injection had indeed been given, "the week before you called. It was felt that Louise could give some kind of consent".

She said that she personally had not told Louise not to tell mummy, but could not explain why no one had informed us. I was refused by a nurse on the unit the name of the doctor who had given Louise the injection but with-

family planning clinic by a nurse from the psychiatric unit. No consent had been asked for because it was accepted that Louise was not able to give it.

The doctor was upset to discover that she had not been told there was parental opposition, or that there was legal action pending. The staff had told her, she said, that Louise was sexually vulnerable, and the only way to protect her without contraception was to guard her at all times, and they didn't have the staff or time to do that.

We are now going ahead with court action and we have lodged a formal complaint about the actions of the psychiatrist and the unit staff.

Mental illness in your child is very hard to bear, but what has made it more difficult is the patronising arrogance of the mental health staff we have come in contact with. They always know best and any questions about treatment or attempts at discussion are regarded as inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

It is as if they cannot understand that there is not necessarily a genetic link. We, too, are regarded as mentally ill and unable to give or withhold consent. It is inverted prejudice, and every bit as

Why I'm fighting for my daughter to be sterilised

Novelist Meg Henderson explains how she came to make such a momentous decision

How Meg Henderson first described her fight in *The Times*

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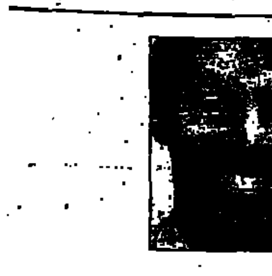

The case against homosexuals in the Armed Forces may be strong — but we have heard it before

Last Tuesday, a powerful leading article appeared in the *Daily Mail*: "Listen to the fighting men". It addressed a controversy on which the Commons Select Committee on Defence will soon report: should known homosexuals be allowed to serve in our Armed Forces.

The argument cannot be brushed aside. Soldiers, sailors and airmen, the editorial pointed out, "do not want to serve with declared gays. They are concerned about the problems of physical proximity for men who have to live and sleep in barracks or below decks. They worry about the cohesiveness of units under the stress of battle."

The *Daily Mail* also reminded readers of its publication last November of a letter (presumably leaked) from Sir Hugo White, the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, to the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater. Why, Sir Hugo had asked, should the Armed Forces "mirror society, when their conditions of service are so different?" In defence matters, political correctness should be resisted, he said (a view endorsed by the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, at his Tory conference). Known homosexuals, Sir Hugo continued, would be made miserable "by ridicule and bullying". He warned that any attempt to lift the ban would devastate discipline and morale, damage the services' fighting ability, and hit recruitment.

I recognise the force of this line of argument. If we are to answer it, we must first acknowledge what Michael Foot once called "the high ground" of the reasoning we oppose.

Its central contention is clear and of wide applicability. The Armed Forces exist, above all, to fight. If something about their social or combat conditions unsettles them, that fact should be faced: it is not enough to dismiss the problem just because we may think it arises from prejudice.

A serious argument. It is not only in Britain that such arguments have found favour. They have also been relied upon heavily in America. To understand the reasoning better, I have been researching American expressions of a similar view, and they are very clear, though loudly not from the navy, but the army.

Take America's General Bradley, for example. "I consider", he said in evidence, "that a unit has high morale when men have confidence in themselves, confidence in their fellow members, and confidence in their leaders." In modern combat, he continued, "a man is thrown very much on his own initiative". If one tried to force the pace of social change, before people were "ready to accept these customs, we may have difficulty in attaining high morale". Supporting that view, Lt-Gen Edward Almond complained about those who tried to impose "a political solution" when combat effectiveness was what counted. The same point made by Sir Hugo White, about the danger of bullying and ridicule, is frequently made in the American evidence, too.

I was interested in the view of a former US Secretary of the Army, Kenneth Royall: "I am reluctant to force a pace", he said, "faster than is consistent with the efficiency and morale of the Army." An army, Royall went on, "is not an instrument for social evolution". He pointed out that "effective comradeship in battle calls for a warm and close personal relationship within a unit".

The US Army, I discovered, has often felt under siege as much from its political masters with their fashionable notions of social change as from its potential battlefield adversaries. "There is growing concern among many senior officers of the Army", noted one official Army report, "that we are weakening to a dangerous degree the combat efficiency of the Army."

But I think the most powerful expression from America of the argument about combat efficiency, echoed last year by Sir Hugo and last week by the *Daily Mail*, comes from that same official US Army report. "The soldier on the battlefield deserves to have and must have the utmost confidence in his fellow soldiers. They must eat together, sleep together and, all too frequently, die together. There can be no friction in their everyday living. That might bring failure in battle."

> The most powerful case against integration came from America — but with a difference

Sir Hugo could not have put it better. Only he and the *Mail* were talking in the 1990s about the integration within our Armed Forces of known homosexuals. The US Army report, however, dates from 1949. I found it in a book by Dr Desmond King, *Separate and Unequal: Black Americans and the US Federal Government* (Oxford, £25). As General Bradley accurately observed: "It is a well-known fact that close personal association with negroes is distasteful to southern whites." All the American remarks quoted above are related to the integration into the Armed Forces not of homosexuals, but of non-whites.

But integration went ahead. None of the dire predictions came to pass, and the move was a complete success. "We didn't do it," said Major-General Anthony McAuliffe afterwards, "to improve the social situation. It was merely a matter of getting the best out of the military personnel that were available."

If the option is between votes and the single currency, Kohl and Chirac will choose popularity

Realpolitik or the euro — but not both

William Rees-Mogg

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister of France, has again rejected the possibility that the European single currency should be postponed or that the Maastricht criteria for membership should be relaxed. Last week he said: "Not only have we not discussed it, but we will not discuss it. The path is fixed. We will stick to the timetable." I always enjoy politicians' statements of this kind: reassurances which fail to reassure. John Major was making similar pledges the weekend before Britain left the ERM. We are not yet within a week of the postponement of the single currency, but it may be getting closer.

One should always look at realities rather than listen to words. Chancellor Kohl is the essential advocate of the single currency; without him, it will not happen. One should therefore consider, first of all, his political situation. His Christian Democrat (CDU) coalition depends on the support of his Bavarian partners, the CSU. They are strongly opposed to a small monetary union, confined to France and Germany's lesser neighbours, because that would expose Bavaria to low-cost Italian competition from outside the group. The Bavarians have been telling Herr Kohl that they do not want monetary union without Italy, yet Italy cannot conceivably meet the conditions for joining — the debt is far too high.

A narrow monetary union would therefore be politically difficult, perhaps impossible. But even a narrow union would require some loosening of the conditions: Belgium, for instance, has a national debt comparable to Italy's. The Social Democrats (SPD), who are Kohl's Opposition, are opposed to any relaxation of the conditions. Giscard d'Estaing, the strongly pro-EU former President of France, called last Wednesday for the Maastricht conditions to be made easier, as France herself might be unable to meet them. However, the SPD in Germany has made it clear that it would not vote for this. The Germans do not want to replace the mark with an inflationary euro. The Bundesbank is strongly opposed to it, and so are the people.

The German constitutional court has laid down that there will have to be a further vote of both houses of the German Parliament to ratify the single currency. The SPD can therefore block any scheme it regards as unsound, because it has a majority in the upper house. As German public opinion is so hostile to losing the mark, the SDP position is very popular and could be the basis of its next election campaign.

The French political situation is even more difficult than the German, because the French economy is weaker. Both France and Germany will have national elections in 1998. To meet the criteria, France would need to set a deflationary budget for 1997, which would be announced in the autumn of this year. French unemployment is already running at about 11.5 per cent and at nearly 30 per cent among young men. A deflationary budget would therefore be highly unpopular, and would almost guarantee that President Chirac would lose the French parliamentary elections in 1998.

Philippe Séguin, the leader of the "No" vote in the Maastricht referendum campaign, is a genuine Gaullist; Alain Juppé is a genuine bureaucrat. President Chirac himself behaves sometimes like a Gaullist and sometimes like a bureaucrat. However, he always fights elections in his Gaullist role. It is quite likely that he will at some point make Séguin prime minister, as the best hope of winning the 1998 elections. But Séguin, in contrast to Juppé, believes, and said last week in Germany, that the single currency will have to be postponed. If President Chirac does adopt a Gaullist strategy, makes Séguin prime minister, has an expansionist budget and starts to reduce unemployment — as he promised to do in the presidential election — he could well win the Assembly elections in 1998. But that is not compatible with the Maastricht conditions or with the single currency in 1999.

Chancellor Kohl has to ask himself whether President Chirac would rather win the 1998 elections with Séguin or lose them with Juppé. Only if he is quite convinced that Chirac would rather lose than change the policy can he be at all confident that France will stay on the path of the single currency. Chirac does not have a reputation for putting consistency before political advantage.

This March there will be three elections in the Länder, two of which are important. Both in in Baden-Württemberg and in the Rhineland Palatinate, the German Liberals, the FDP, are under great pressure. If they fail to get 5 per cent of the vote, they will have no seats in these regional parliaments. That would make them extremely nervous about the possibility of failing to reach the 5 per cent mark in the 1998 national elections, in which case they would disappear from the Federal Parliament as well. No one can be sure what the consequences of that might be. Germany, like France, is suffering from high unemployment and an industrial slowdown. The German economy is in a rough stage; last Monday, Daimler-Benz announced a loss for 1995 of about 6 billion marks, the biggest in German history. Opinion polls suggest that Chancellor Kohl might have great difficulty in winning an election if he lost the Liberals, against a potential SPD coalition with the Greens.

If these March Länder elections do go badly, there are two European meetings at which a postponement of the single currency could be agreed: the Turin summit on March 29-30 and the Verona meeting of April 15-16. The Turin summit is supposed to be the opening of the intergovernmental conference on Maastricht. Both Chancellor Kohl and the Bundesbank will want to keep this European currency situation under control. If the exchange markets become convinced that postponement is inevitable, they will start to put great pressure on the French franc, which would obviously be devalued if the Juppé policy had to be changed. Markets would probably take a Séguin prime ministership as a signal in itself that the game was over. Yet a Séguin prime ministership is politically very attractive.

Chancellor Kohl would undoubtedly like to find a way through to the creation of a single currency in 1999. Although he has just joined his wife in publishing a cookery book (the recipe for Palatine pig's belly sounds delicious), he is not ready for retirement — certainly not before November, when he would become the longest-serving German Chancellor since Bismarck. He would dearly love to leave the euro as a monument to his leadership, alongside the reunification of Germany. But he has survived by being a realist. Even to him, it must be beginning to look as though a single currency in 1999 is economically and politically impossible. If so, the sooner the European Union faces the truth, the better.

Blair's lesson in retaliation

The Harman row need not damage Labour for long, says

Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has reacted to the Harriet Harman affair — "the toughest week I've had since becoming leader" — by going on the offensive. In a speech in Southwark Cathedral this evening, he will address the substance of the row: parental worries that children will suffer in poor comprehensive schools. This response is both characteristic of Mr Blair's style of leadership and politically astute. Nothing would more undermine his attempt to portray Labour as a new party in touch with ordinary people than ambiguity on this issue.

Over the past 18 months, Mr Blair has been engaged in a delicate balancing act: on the one hand, trying to convince the public that Labour has really changed by, for example, replacing Clause Four, distancing himself from the unions and embracing the private sector, while on the other hand taking his party along with him, and at the same time changing its structure and broadening its membership. His success in looking like an electoral winner has ensured the acquiescence, if not always the enthusiastic support, of all but the hard-core Left, some of whom have now joined Arthur Scargill's little fantasy party. Few are going to challenge Mr Blair's authority and so threaten Labour's electoral appeal when office at last seems to be within its grasp.

The row over Ms Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school was a threat to this strategy. Ms Harman has been a close ally of Mr Blair, and her enforced departure would have been widely seen as victory for "old" over "new" Labour. But it was not simply an "old" versus "new" dispute. That is what made it both so impassioned and so atypical. Labour has deep roots in state education, via teachers, councillors, governors and parents, and opposition to selection is ingrained.

Consequently, many of Ms Harman's fiercest critics have been not the "old" Left or northern male members who resent her rapid advance, but MPs, including several women, who oppose selection but are otherwise very much "new" Labour. They recognise the dilemma she faced as a mother, but believe she acted selfishly as a senior politician in failing to recognise the wider impact of so sensitive a decision. The row has brought to the surface half-submerged criticisms of her as being aloof and living by her own rules. Her record as a spokesman is not strong enough to offset such doubts. One of Mr Blair's close allies said, "You've got to admire her nerve, or thick skin," but complained that she did not appreciate the damage she had caused to the "new" Labour approach, and had failed to thank those who had reluctantly helped her. She survived last week only because MPs rallied to Mr Blair's appeal to stick together and not give a scalp to the Tories. Nevertheless, Ms Harman faces certain defeat at this autumn's Shadow Cabinet elections, unless she can win back these "new" Labour MPs whom she so antagonised last week.

Mr Blair himself had two rough Prime Minister's Question Times (although the Thursday session looked less bad for him on television), but otherwise he was less damaged than he would have been if Ms Harman had been forced out. The strains within the leadership should quickly heal: John Prescott's anger was aimed at Ms Harman not Mr Blair. Although education is an unusually emotive issue within the Labour Party, the affair shows that Mr Blair cannot take the party for granted.

Any leader, particularly one with a deliberately bold and challenging style like Mr Blair, is bound to be accused of being arrogant and out of touch. Charges of élitism are invariably levelled at the leader's office. But whenever the opinion of party members is canvassed, as over Clause Four a year ago, Mr Blair is overwhelmingly backed. Moreover, his personal relations with senior members of the Shadow Cabinet are good. The rivalries are between his chief lieutenants, such as Mr Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, and not between them and him, although there are tensions between the leader's staff and other advisers. Mr Blair is unlike, say, Hugh Gaitskell, whose personal prickliness and distance from colleagues such as Harold Wilson helped doom his attempt to rewrite Clause Four in 1960.

Of course Labour MPs were rattled and angry last week, but that should be temporary, even though it is hardly an encouraging indicator of how they would behave in face of the much greater strains of government. And after a shaky start to the year, the Tories have been given an opportunity to recover their balance and to counter-attack, which they have done gleefully on the "hypocrisy" theme. Labour may suffer in the short term on this score and because of apparent disunity, but this will be partly offset by sympathy for Ms Harman's personal predicament. There could be a narrowing of Labour's big poll lead, although even before the row, the Tories' standing had been edging up a little, according to last week's MORI poll for *The Times*.

For Mr Blair, the only way to ensure that the damage is not great or permanent is directly to tackle the reason why middle-class parents like Ms Harman opt for grammar schools — and why working-class parents might like to. While opposed to selection, Labour has an ambiguous approach to the 160 existing state grammar schools. The party's tacit acceptance of their continuation is overlaid by a complicated system of local ballots over their future. Mr Blair will this evening argue that it is more important to raise standards in the 25,000 other schools as part of making Britain more socially cohesive. He will discuss proposals both to improve failing schools and to help brighter children through what is euphemistically called "accelerated learning".

This is a version of streaming in which children are grouped separately for different subjects according to ability and interest, rather than by age. This is a way of reconciling parental worries that bright children will be held back within a comprehensive structure. Mr Blair believes this approach will be popular in view of public fears over the reintroduction of the 11-plus. But it still fudges the question of parental choice and of the position of grant-maintained schools.

The Harman affair has exposed Labour's vulnerability. Its face under pressure was at times unappealing. But provided the rest of the party holds its nerve like Mr Blair, it should be a setback, not a turning point.

Stamped on

AMID THE turmoil consuming the Royal Family, the Queen has decided she has little to celebrate and she doesn't want to make a fuss about her 70th birthday. Her Majesty has vetoed a plan for a commemorative stamp.

The Queen has to give her approval to all stamps produced by the Royal Mail, and plans for a birthday stamp are understood to have been given short shrift. A stamp was issued on the occasion of her 60th birthday and on the 40th anniversary of her accession. Instead a commemorative sticky label will go on sale in April.

Norman Williams, the eminent philatelist who dubbed such non-postal stamps "Cinderellas", says there will be disappointment and surprise among stamp connoisseurs.

Neither the Royal Mail nor Buckingham Palace is prepared to explain more. "After discussions with Buckingham Palace about the 1996 stamp programme, it was agreed that Her Majesty's birthday would be marked with a commemorative label," says a Royal Mail spokesman blandly.

It is believed, however, that she feels that the rare success of a royal marriage *is* worth commemorating, and that she has agreed to a stamp marking her 50th wedding anniversary next year.

● *Gerald Kaufman has become an H.M.Bateman character: the man who asked for HP Sauce at the Ivy. The incident occurred at the thespian restaurant the other day as he was tucking into baked cod and chips. The waiter looked aghast, and sniffed that he would not dare to ask the chef for such a condiment. Kaufman gave him one of his unblinking stares — but settled for a lesser sauce.*

Early call

AS FAR AS the BBC is concerned, the general election is inked in for the end of next month. Teams of planners are working round the clock in preparation for a marathon of coverage all through the night.

David Dimbleby is booked to be behind his desk with a panel of MPs, Peter Snow will be cranking up his swingometer, and cohorts of reporters are even now being briefed on their roles in feeding through and analysing the results — all for the biggest ever election dummy-run.

And what is the predicted outcome? "It will all be very balanced, we shall run a number of scenarios," says a Beeb minion.

Blithe spirit

PRINCE EDWARD announced the other day that he was in search of ghosts for a television series. He might try a midnight flit to Hyde Park. A spirit has turned up under the Serpentine bridge.

Police in the park believe it to be the ghost of Harriet Shelley, Percy Bysshe's first wife, who committed suicide by drowning in the Serpentine. PC Stan Fisk of the Royal Parks Constabulary says he has felt her presence: "It was like a sudden chill, really cold in the dark underneath the bridge; and another time it was as if somebody was behind me but there was nobody when I looked round," he says. Spoooky!

● *Despite living in Scargill Avenue, Nottingham, Richard and Sarah Robinson have perversely given Joseph, their newborn son, the middle name Blair.*

Fair shares

FRESH from winning a Golden Globe award for *Sense and Sensibility*, Emma Thompson has turned theatrical angel. She has stumped up an undisclosed sum to enable the curtain to rise on the latest production of a struggling young company.

The Art of Random Whistling, from a group of actors calling themselves Wink, opens at the Young Vic Studio this week after Thompson saw another of their shows and decided to back them. Ominously, the company's work is trumpeted as "total theatre", and as displaying "a unique ensemble style". If my fears are justified, it won't be the first time there has been a touch of pretentiousness about Thompson's attempts to shrug off her stardom. When she won an Oscar for *Howards End*, she kept it in her downstairs loo.

New, new, new

TONY BLAIR has achieved sufficient momentum to merit a long profile in this week's *New Yorker*. Its headline is "The Next Prime Minister" — with no question-mark.

Emma: just luvved it and tipped the Wink

It is a respectful piece, and the Labour Party co-operated fully with the acme of Manhattan liberalism. Sidney Blumenthal not only visited Blair at home — for a cup of fruit tea — but spoke to such shadowy party strategists as Peter Mandelson and Philip Gould.

He asked Mandelson whether Labour saw much significance in Bill Clinton's re-election campaign as an indicator of its own chances. "Clinton win? Not important. Nothing. No effect," Mandelson reportedly said. But then, Blumenthal notes, "he started biting all his nails at once and shaking".

Eagle landing

A TRAVEL TIP: do not fly with Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards. A recent British Airways flight to London from New York on which the hopeless ski-jumper was a passenger was an uneasy affair.

Take-off was delayed by 12 hours when the plane in front was involved in a crash on the runway. Then, in the air a woman had a fit and the captain put out the unsettling call "Is there a doctor on board?"

"Eddie gave her his seat because it had more leg-room, and she calmed down, but we were all a bit jittery," says a passenger. "Then we were all putting on our seatbelts to land when Eddie got up and disappeared into the cockpit . . . There were horrified looks from some passengers and white knuckles but it landed more safely than he does."

Eddie: no crash landing

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

GRAVES OF VLASENICA

Ugly remains from the past pose hard questions for Nato

We are already too used to news of atrocity from Bosnia. Yet no sooner has Western public opinion seemed to grow numb to news of Balkan deaths and cruelty, than another mass grave is uncovered to remind us of the ghoulish nature of that conflict. *The Times* today carries a report from Vlasenica, a small mining town 20 miles from Srebrenica, in Eastern Bosnia. As our correspondent writes, an extensive trench has been found on the edge of that Serb-held town: the trench, preliminary evidence suggests, hides the bodies of murdered Bosnian Muslims. It is too soon to say how many lie interred there; but early, and apprehensive, arithmetic suggests that the numbers will not be small. At least 8,000 Muslims were once interned at a concentration camp near by: many of them, almost certainly, were tortured, killed and buried in the trench.

As Nato's implementation force (IFOR) secures large swaths of Bosnia — following the accord concluded at Dayton, Ohio, in November last year — areas previously out of bounds to journalists and human rights observers are yielding up their blood-stained secrets. Vlasenica is one such place. A town with a Muslim majority which was wholly "cleansed" of its Muslims by Serb forces, it now poses a hard question to Nato's military commanders. When other mass graves are uncovered in Serb-held land in the days ahead — as they surely will be — the question will repeat itself with uncomfortable frequency: what should be done in response? Should the action be merely actuarial, confined to helping in the count of victims and bodies? Or should there be conducted a vigorous pursuit of the perpetrators of these crimes of war?

Under the Dayton accord, IFOR would appear not to be responsible for arresting war criminals. Theirs is a military task: they are in Bosnia to hold the peace and to safeguard the principles of the agreement, which include the securing of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a single state. Furthermore, they will assist refugees if available and if requested. The role of Nato troops in the investigation of atrocities, however, is much less clear. But with the unearthing of each fresh mass grave, pressure to act grows on the troops on the ground. This pressure, increasingly, comes from Nato's civilian command. Admiral Leighton Smith, the American military commander of Operation Joint Endeavour, has voiced his fears of a "mission creep", or an unstructured broadening of the Dayton mandate. Many soldiers believe that a constabulary response to graves like that of Vlasenica, involving a search for those responsible, might cause a precarious peace to unravel altogether.

If there is merit in that argument, there is force also in the view which insists that the troops at least act to safeguard evidence. The dead of Vlasenica must be allowed to tell their tale before the International War Crimes Tribunal. The preservation of evidence should be relatively simple: and with modern forensic technology, a skilled team of scientists should not need an inordinate length of time to draw its conclusions. Admiral Smith has shown that — while alert to the letter of his mandate — he is not unsympathetic to broader questions. "Within the resources, and consistent with our primary missions, we will provide what help we can to investigate grave sites." He has promised, also, to "provide an environment in which the investigators can work". That, surely, is the right approach. Bosnia must rebuild for the future: it cannot do so without addressing its immediate past.

COUNCIL OF HOPE

A gain for Russia is a gain for Europe

Last week's vote to admit Russia as the 39th member of the Council of Europe has been bitterly contested inside Russia as well as in the West. Respected democrats and human rights advocates have argued that the respect accorded to the Council, founded in 1949 as the political trustee of human rights and democratic behaviour in Europe, rests on its readiness to insist that its member states accept and abide by a number of clear obligations. They contend that Russia's admission at this juncture is a politically-motivated decision, and a mistake.

Boris Yeltsin has given the critics plenty of ammunition. The Kremlin shows no intention of disciplining those guilty of atrocities against civilians in Chechenia — who have been made doubly victims, of their own gangster regime and of brutal and inept Russian efforts to suppress its rebellion. Worryingly, the ensuring political crisis in Russia has driven the country to the right, and the odds now favour a victory for communists and ultra-nationalists in next June's presidential election. In response, Mr Yeltsin appears to have made his own the old slogan, "if you can't beat them, join them". The country's modernisers, reformers and most convinced democrats are everywhere on the defensive.

The Council's report to its parliamentary assembly bluntly admitted that Russia does not meet its criteria for membership. The hope is that the Council's machinery can be used, as it has been in Romania, to help Russia to improve its record. But the Council has few ways to force Russia to live up to the promises it made last week: and no sooner were the votes counted in Strasbourg — and the result hailed by Mr Yeltsin — than Vladimir Lukin, the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation, was saying that Russian "realities" would affect compliance with Council recommendations.

Yet the balance of wisdom lies with those who swallowed their doubts and voted yes. The decision is not an abandonment of principle, and governments should have no hesitation in endorsing it. The first reason is that for all the current uncertainties, Russia has made strides towards free institutions far greater than anyone predicted a decade ago. The defence of democracy, for a start, is no longer a crime; the press is a chaotic marketplace of competing voices vehemently discussing vast areas of policy, from the death penalty to mental health care, racism and official abuses of power that for many decades were taboo. The problem with last month's elections was that there were too many parties, not that there was only one.

Many of these gains are derided as sham and "unRussian" by racist ultranationalists such as Vladimir Zhirinovsky — who is frank in his anger at being robbed of his line that the West is "against Russia" and bent on isolating it. But that is precisely why the citizens of Russia should not be left to face the enemies of democracy alone.

The second reason is that as a member, Russia must ratify within a year a number of important European conventions: on human rights, on safeguards for ethnic minorities and on torture. Within three years it must abolish the death penalty, and it has already been urged to do so much sooner. To comply with these obligations will entail a vast programme of much-needed penal reforms, helping to give greater solidity to the formal guarantees written into Russia's constitution. A committee has been set up to monitor Russia's actions in Chechenia. Above all, Russia will be liable to challenge in the European Court of Justice — by other governments and, if it accepts the optional protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, by ordinary Russian citizens — if its fails to abide by its obligations under the conventions. Russia is a deeply troubled country that has thrown itself into the wider world. A great debate is raging as to who its enemies are, and who it can count as its friends. Having extended the hand of friendship, the Council of Europe is placed to exert a beneficial influence on that debate. It is surely right to have done so: for the outcome will affect every country in Europe.

WELCOME BACK

After her trauma, Seles is again a winner

Once upon a time there was a young girl from Novi Sad, in Yugoslavia. She played tennis, hitting the ball with a quite unladylike thump.

And she grunted as she thumped — vast, rumbling, primordial sounds. Man-players had always grunted so, and no one had thought to mind. Her female opponents, however, did not like the noise much; nor, we suspect, did anyone else. But Monica Seles was a tenacious champion: very hungry, very eager. Then she was stabbed at a match in Germany — by a man obsessed with another great tennis player, Steffi Graf — and Miss Seles could play the game no longer. She was wrecked, not yet 21 years old, at her peak.

Miss Seles spent two years away from the tennis court. Whereas her physical injuries, fortunately, were not serious, the damage inflicted to her youthful psyche was considerable. And in the period she spent off court, her native Yugoslavia also went to pieces, adding complex tribal woe to her bitter personal trauma. She shunned crowds, understandably fearful of attack; she shunned tennis, treating the game as the cause of her

and her doctors. And just as her mind had started to heal, the breathtaking leniency of the German courts, which imposed on her assailant only a suspended sentence, dealt a stinging blow to her morale. The man is free, and has not spent a single day in prison.

Women's tennis was impoverished by her absence. The stock of the game fell low, and competition became even more predictable and one-sided: the interest of spectators began to plummet. Miss Seles's return, therefore, is as important for the game as it is for her. Her first match — last July — was against that muscled dowager of the tennis courts, Martina Navratilova. Although it was only an exhibition event, Miss Seles played an articulate game. She won, and, wonderful to relate, even grunted.

On Saturday, in the final of the Australian Open, she returned to business as usual, disposing of her opponent in straight, punchy sets. But as our tennis correspondent writes, her mind has still not emerged completely from its torment. She broke down after the match, when pressed by an unchivalrous questioner on her memories of Germany. Miss Seles has our sympathy and deserves help in rebuilding her life and game. She

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Choice, selection and resources in a child's education

From Professor Emeritus I. M. Roitt, FRS

Sir, Although the benefits to the Labour Party are not so clear, Harriet Harman has done a great service by focusing on the desirability of parents having some say in the provision of schooling for their children (letters, January 24, 26). Possibly more important than the issue of selection is that of streaming (or, as teachers prefer, "setting") pupils for certain subjects. Unstreamed classes place a greater burden on the teacher, frustrate the more able pupil and cause despair among the weaker brethren.

The powers that be have done a grotesque disservice to our country over a long period by pressing for unstreamed teaching, with disheartening results.

If parents really want to be stakeholders in education, they should start now, call a meeting of their parent-teacher association, debate the issue of streaming and, if they are for it, strongly advise the head teacher to introduce it from the first year (of secondary schooling at least). If the head proves unresponsive to an overwhelming parental wish, his/her authority would soon be undermined.

Here is a wonderful opportunity to devolve more power to the individual to express personal choice without having to ask the Government for any extra money.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN ROITT,
995 Finchley Road, NW11.
January 26.

From Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West (Conservative)

Sir, In searching for the reasons for poor primary school performance, it would be wise to study the 1991 report, *Primary Education in Leeds*, by Professor Alexander of the University of Leeds.

Over four years the schools he examined received from the local education authority an extra £13.75 million, most of which was spent on 500 additional teachers. The report concluded that there was "no evidence that the injection of extra staff and money … had had a positive impact on children's reading ability". In fact, there was even a decline in some inner-city schools, where resources were concentrated.

There were two essential reasons: an LEA strategy which "underplayed or ignored children's potential", leading to low expectations among teachers; and the LEA seeing its role as "definer, arbiter and keeper of good primary practice", when the practices teachers were pressured to adopt did not work on the ground. There were "busy" classrooms but "reduced opportunities for the quiet concentrated study required by … reading and writing".

One suspects that the deficiencies highlighted in Leeds have been common to a great many English primary schools since the Plowden report in 1967. Above all, this study demonstrates what the Labour Party, which controls the vast majority of LEAs, wants us to overlook, namely that schools in this country are not "government" schools, but "council" schools.

It is local councils that have determined the structure of our schools and the management of resources and for too long their deficiencies have not been exposed.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH HAMPSON,
House of Commons.
January 26.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Instead of adopting an education policy which levels down, and then results in hypocrisy by its leaders, the Labour Party should emulate some of its early founders. As a life-long committed Conservative I am full of gratitude for the education provided to me in the 1940s by Durham County — which has had continuous single Labour control since the early part of this century. This was at Wellfield Grammar School, Wingate.

The county's many well run grammar schools, filled by competitive examination without parental interviews, produced in their day large numbers of pupils who have achieved great success and prominence in a wide variety of fields. Those from Wellfield alone include a leading Labour politician in the House of Lords and a top industrialist. Opened in 1930, Wellfield catered for about 15 pit villages where there was no privilege and much financial hardship.

I fully support equality of opportunity, but linked to selection, because there will never be equality of intellect, equality of willingness to work or equality of willingness to learn.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ASKEW,
27 Golf Links Avenue,
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.
January 23.

From Mr W. Randolph Angell

Sir, Could there be any greater demonstration of commitment to address the problems in our school system, or any greater incentive to make progress toward the political ideals propounded by the Labour Party, than having one's own offspring schooled within that very system? This to me would have represented a shining example of Mr Blair's stakeholder's society.

Yours sincerely,
W. R. ANGELL,
47 Springfield Road, N11.
January 24.

From the General Secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Sir, Your leader today on the Labour Party's education policies referring to an independent opinion poll commissioned by this organisation inaccurately states that "Selection is popular: a Harris poll published today suggests 54 per cent of parents favour it".

Fifty-four per cent of the *public* favour selection, not parents. Support for bringing back grammar schools may be there but Conservatives should not kid themselves they are on a winner.

Sincerely,
PETER SMITH,
General Secretary,
The Association of
Teachers and Lecturers,
7 Northumberland Street, WC2.
January 22.

Prince Charles's millennium ideas

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, The Prince of Wales has done well to draw attention to the spiritual possibilities of the millennium celebrations (report, January 25). By stressing that the theme of renewal is one which all faiths can share, he may help to overcome the fear of Christian triumphalism which has hitherto somewhat muted the Churches' response.

It is a pity, though, that media comment has focused so heavily on his hint about new religious buildings. It would seem to me that the building and endowment of a major inter-faith centre, where members of different faiths could meet and learn from one another on neutral ground, might be of more help in fulfilling his vision.

The promotion of mutual understanding and trust between different faith communities is going to be a task of huge and worldwide significance for the millennium to come.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HABGOOD,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
January 26.

From Professor L. D. Barron

Sir, While the call by the Prince of Wales for projects to reflect deeper, more fundamental aspects of the millennium is to be applauded, his suggestion for the erection of "a great religious building" prompts the depressing thought that the perception of the world by much of humanity has changed little over the past 3,000 years; the profound philosophical and spiritual implications of the great works of science that have created the modern world seem to have passed it by.

Surely wonders such as the glimpse of a galaxy of galaxies in a tiny dot of the sky revealed recently by the Hubble space telescope (report, January 17) offer the modern mind more food for spiritual thought than anything the traditional religions now seem able to provide.

Yours faithfully,
L. D. BARRON,
31 Newtonlea Avenue,
Newton Mearns, Glasgow.
January 26.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, What indeed is the significance of the end of the present millennium? It is a completely notional date, counting an entirely arbitrary number from a certainly miscalculated beginning, which will anyway be generally but inaccurately marked at the end of 1999 rather than 2000 or 2001.

If it has any intrinsic meaning, this is superstitious rather than spiritual and Christian rather than ecumenical, and it should be restricted accordingly, as it was a thousand years ago. But if it is to become the excuse for wider celebration, this should surely concentrate not on religious elements — what may be seen by various faiths and creeds as sacred or transcendental — but on realistic projects — what may seem truly universal and genuinely civilised in a country and a world where millions of us have no faith or creed.

It would be tragic if this mainly fortuitous festival turned out to add a further breach to all those already existing among us, and it is already most unfortunate that so much depends on the national shame of the National Lottery.

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
January 26.

From Mrs Jane Cooper

Sir, In my opinion the Prince of Wales, the future head of the Church of England, has his priorities wrong in wanting to celebrate the millennium by building non-Christian places of worship.

Yours faithfully,
JANE COOPER,
66 Fern Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear.
January 25.

Irish peace process

From Councillor Steve Jones

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Major's feel for a risk continues to defy doubters", January 25) attempts to divert attention from the Government's embarrassing defeat on its "Washington Three" precondition on arms decommissioning. This will not wash.

As soon as the IRA ceasefire was called in 1994 we were treated to months of objections by the British Government to the uncertainty of the ceasefire's "permanence". Once it became apparent that this excuse was wearing thin, the issue of decommissioning became the British impediment to all-party talks. It took George Mitchell to nail the lid on that obstacle, too.

Now, no sooner than the ink is dry on the Mitchell report, we have the Prime Minister erecting another block to progress: assembly elections. Will there be no end to these prevarications?

Yours faithfully,
STEVE JONES,
5 Henry Jones Road,
Eaton Park, Oswestry, Shropshire.
January 25.

From Mr Andy Cameron

Sir, History shows that those who believe they are getting a "raw deal" out of an elected assembly in Northern Ireland usually resort to violence, perceiving this to be the only method of acquiring what they see as political justice.

If the Westminster "majority rules" system is to apply to the proposed election this large minority will be inadequately represented at "all party" talks and may well resort to that tradition.

With regards,
ANDY CAMERON,
84 Ringsend Road,
Limavady, Co Londonderry.
January 25.

From Mr Barry Lillis

Sir, It is worth remembering that when Lloyd George offered negotiations to the IRA in 1921 he did not demand or ask for a decommissioning of arms by the IRA. A truce, simply, was agreed to by both sides.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY LILLIS,
17A Lincoln Street, Chelsea, SW3.
January 25.

Give with one hand …

From Mr Giles Craven

Sir, Before I have had the chance to enjoy the modest tax savings promised in the last Budget, I have received notice of another promise from government, this time the local variety. They promise to increase my council tax by up to 94 per cent in the coming year. They blame central government for the increase.

Yours etc,
GILES CRAVEN,
20 Court Lane Gardens, SE21.
January 25.

Minister defends drivers' eye tests

From the Minister for Road Safety

Sir, I am afraid that Lieutenant-Colonel Miller (letter, January 24) has got the changes in eyesight standards being introduced under the Second Directive on Driving Licences out of proportion. It is certainly not the case that "countless" safe and blameless drivers are about to lose their jobs as a result.

Tests of uncorrected eyesight have been part of the eyesight test for drivers of lorries and buses since 1983. The change now being introduced is that both eyes will have to meet the test, rather than one eye as hitherto. The standard is a minimum one, equivalent to being able to read the largest letter on an optician's wall chart from a distance of three metres. Nearly all drivers of lorries and buses will be able to meet the standard: indeed, we estimate that less than 0.2 per cent of the 1.6 million current licence holders — about 3,000 drivers — may not be able to meet the minimum standard in both eyes and will not be able to renew their lorry or bus licences when they expire.

Some of the 3,000 may well lose employment as a result, and I do not underestimate the seriousness of that for those concerned. But accidents involving heavy lorries or buses tend to be more serious than those involving other vehicles, and it is right to expect higher standards from their drivers. The new eyesight standards have been agreed within Europe as the minimum compatible with road safety, and we have concluded, after much reflection, that it is no longer right to allow those drivers whose eyesight falls below that standard to continue to renew their licences just because they first obtained them when standards were lower.

As Lieutenant-Colonel Miller acknowledges, we have every reason to be proud of our road safety record. Maintaining that record does sometimes require hard decisions, as in this case. But I am sure your correspondents would not hold back from criticising us were, say, a bus driver with substandard eyesight to be involved in a serious accident involving schoolchildren.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN NORRIS,
The Department of Transport,
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street, SW1.
January 25.

Lottery and charities

From the Director General of the Cancer Research Campaign

Sir, Your report on the effect of the National Lottery on the medical charities (January 16) refers to "vigorous complaints" from the Cancer Research Campaign. May I point out that our complaints were not that the lottery would harm our fundraising, as you implied, but that the rules for the early rounds for awards last year appeared to exclude medical research. This seemed to us, and to others who have the interests of medical research at heart, to be both unjust and contrary to the evident preference of the public who, fortunately, support medical research in this country with great generosity.

Happily, we were able to submit a research project to the Scottish Board which fitted both the National Lottery Charities Board's (NLCB) first-round criterion of "improving the quality of life of people … disadvantaged by poverty" and our own priorities. Some other medical-research charities were less fortunate. It remains to be seen how we shall fare in future rounds.

We do not yet know what will be the long-term effect of the lottery on our own fundraising, but we are not encouraged by the decline in donations reported by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (letter, January 19). The risk for this and other medical-research charities is that, on the one hand the donating public will feel that they have done their bit for charity by buying a lottery ticket, and on the other that the NLCB's support for medical research will not compensate for any resulting loss of income.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID de PEYER, Director General,
Cancer Research Campaign.

London Fire Brigade

From Mr M. Kelly

Sir, Your report and headline, "Fire crews in the City face sack" (later editions, January 22), could have given the impression that the London Fire Brigade is considering "sacking" firefighters and/or making them compulsorily redundant.

The Chief Fire Officer's report on London's fire cover proposes a range of options which would make savings over the next three years in line with financial constraints imposed by central government. However, we have no policy of compulsory redundancies for our firefighting staff and, with retirements from the service running at around 200 per annum, any jobs lost could be effected by natural wastage.

Yours faithfully,
M. KELLY
(Assistant Chief Officer (Operations),
London Fire Brigade),
London Fire and
Civil Defence Authority,
Albert Embankment, SE1.
January 22.

Gluts and shortages

From Mr Alan Coustan

Sir, You report (January 24) that analysts are forecasting improvements in the property market. In this small township, an adjunct of Hull, we have six estate agents in one location, at Willerby Square, including two recent arrivals. For the sake of their businesses I hope you are right.

But what we could really do with is a greengrocer.

Yours sincerely,
A. COUSTAN,
16 Tudor Court,

Stamps of approval

From the President of the Institute of Physics

Sir, Next year will see the centenary of the discovery of the electron by J. J. Thomson working at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. This "element of electricity", which has been heard of by every youngster, forms the basis of almost everything in science and technology, one way or another.

Not surprisingly, then, many of us wished to have the electron selected by the Royal Mail as one of its thematic stamps. The Institute of Physics thought that the case was overwhelming: indeed, we even provided ideas for designs.

We thought wrong! The 1997 successes include "horses", "sub-post offices", and "Enid Blyton". "Aircraft" is the only representative of the science and engineering area.

What *do* we have to do to honour British achievements?

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
President,
The Institute of Physics.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 28: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Blackburn preached the Sermon.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of the United Mexican States and Señora Zedillo and welcomed His Excellency and Señora Zedillo on behalf of Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 28: The Prince of Wales, Vice President, the National Trust, this evening joined Mrs Rosemary Verey in delivering a Lecture about the garden at Highgrove House in aid of the National Trust in the Peak District, followed by a Reception at the Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 28: The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, the British Museum, this afternoon received the President of the United Mexican States (His Excellency Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon) at the British Museum, London WC1.

YORK HOUSE,
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 28: The Duchess of Kent this evening presented the *Evening Standard* British Film Awards, at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2.

Birthdays today

Dr R.C. Alston, bibliographer, 63; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 60; Mr Leslie Bricusse, composer and lyricist, 65; Major-General Sir George Burns, 85; Mr Peter Byrne, actor, 68; Lord Clyde, 64; Dr Alec Coppen, psychiatrist, 76; the Right Rev Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Abbot of Downside, 55; Mr John Gallagher, rugby league player, 32; Dr Germaine Greer, author, 57; Lord Gregson, 72; Professor F.R. Hartley, Vice-Chancellor, Cranfield University, 54; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 86; Earl Howe, 45; Mr John Junkin, actor and writer, 66; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 36; Mrs Margaret Laird, Third Church Estates Commissioner, 63; Lord Lane of Horsell, 71; Mr Michael Mavor, Head Master, Rugby School, 49; Mr Richard Needham, MP, 54; Mr James Nicholson, MEP, 51; Mr Andy Roberts, cricketer, 45; Professor Abdus Salam, theoretical physicist, 70; Mr Tom Selleck, actor, 51; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 64; Viscount Tonypandy, 87; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 72; Mr Israel Wetrin, managing director, Elonex, 49.

The Countess of Denbigh and Desmond

The Countess of Denbigh and Desmond, following the marriage of her son, the Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, on January 27, 1996, will be known as the Dowager Countess of Denbigh and Desmond.

Dinner

British Invisibles
British Invisibles were the hosts at a dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel in honour of Mr Ernesto Zedillo, President of Mexico. Among those present were:

Mr Andrew Buxton, Mr Leopold de Rothschild, Mr Nicholas Baring, Mr Hessel Lindenbergh, Mr Herman van der Wyck, Mr Adair Turner, Mr Paul Zuckerman, Mr William Tudor John.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will attend a luncheon given by the Association of American Correspondents in London at Brown's Hotel at 12.30.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, Stockholm, 1688; Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, 1700; Thomas Paine, radical and writer, Thetford, Norfolk, 1737; Henry Neele, poet, London, 1798; Sir James Outram, general, Bulterley Hall, Derbyshire, 1803; William McKinley, 25th American President 1897-1901, Niles, Ohio, 1843; Sir Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of garden cities, London, 1850; Anton Chekhov, playwright, Tagarov, Russia, 1860; Frederick Delius, composer, Bradford, 1862; Romain Rolland, novelist, Nobel laureate 1915, Clamecy, France, 1866; Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, writer and politician, Valencia, 1867; Havergal Brian, composer, Dresden, Staffordshire, 1876; W.C. Fields, actor and comedian, Philadelphia, 1880.

DEATHS: Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln 1660-63, Buckden, Huntingdon, 1663; King George III, reigned 1760-1820, Windsor, 1820; Edward Lear, poet and artist, San Remo, Italy, 1888; Alfred Sisley, painter, Monet-sur-Loing, 1899; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, field marshal, London, 1928; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, Edinburgh, 1951; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1956; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, New York, 1962; Robert Frost, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1963; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, California, 1980.

The Victoria Cross was instituted, 1856.

Desert Island Discs was first broadcast by the BBC, 1942.

Memorial services

Sir Ivan Ewart
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Ivan Ewart, business man and charity worker, was held yesterday at the Church of St Malachy, Hillsborough, County Down. Canon John Dinnen officiated. Sir Michael Ewart, son, Mrs Susan Cunningham and Mrs Patricia Browne, daughters, gave readings. Lord Cooke of Islandreagh paid tribute.

The Ven Peter Eliot
A service of thanksgiving for the Ven Peter Charles Eliot was held on Saturday in Worcester Cathedral. The Archdeacon of Worcester officiated, assisted by the Ven J.C. Williams who led the act of thanksgiving.

Mr Peter Asher read the lesson and Mr James Asher read from John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

The Bishop of Worcester pronounced the blessing.

Professor T. Brooke Benjamin
A memorial service for Professor T. Brooke Benjamin, Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford, was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. The Rev Peter Southwell, Chaplain of The Queen's College, officiated.

Dr Geoffrey Marshall, Provost, Professor Trevor Stuart and Professor Patrick Riley gave readings. Professor David Crighton gave an address.

Lieutenancy of Essex

The following deputy lieutenant commissions have been announced: John McCrindle Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Benbow Manning-Press, RA (Retd), Thomas Edward Dale.

University news

Oxford, Magdalen College
To a fixed-term fellowship in English (for five years from October 1, 1996): Susan Jennifer Hitch, MA.

The Duke of Edinburgh facing a chilly journey home from Sandringham Church yesterday

Researchers rethink clues to Dublin's Viking past

By Norman Hammond
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE origins of Dublin, long thought to have begun as a Viking fortress close to the later castle of the English viceroys, may have been wrongly located by archaeologists.

Recent re-analysis of two Viking cemeteries excavated more than a century ago suggests that the Irish capital began more than a mile further upstream on the Liffey. A monastery was taken over and turned into an armed camp.

The Viking cemeteries at Islandbridge and Kilmainham, on the western outskirts of the Georgian city, were found when gravel digging and railway construction took place in the mid-19th century. They yielded spectacular finds of weapons and ornaments, so similar to Viking goods from Scandinavia that watercolour paintings were given to the national museum in Copenhagen. The exact findspots have long remained obscure. However Elizabeth O'Brien has now recovered information from official files and railway records that shows the existence of two distinct burial grounds, both on a prominent gravel ridge and one adjacent to a monastic site.

Both proved to contain pagan Viking and also native Christian graves; the Viking grave goods dated the burials to the later 9th century, coeval with the Viking *longphort* or trading settlement known to have existed between AD 841 and 902.

"It would seem unlikely that the occupants of a longphort at the Liffey-Poddle confluence [where the centre of medieval Dublin lies] would have been prepared to travel at least a mile upstream, probably through hostile territory, to bury their dead," Ms O'Brien says in *Archaeology Ireland*. "It seems much more likely that the burials represent Vikings living in that area in the 9th century."

Viking usurpation of monastic establishments is well-known from England: in AD 873-4 they took over the Repton monastery on the Trent and fortified it, turning the church into a blockhouse. The Kilmainham monastery enclosure, and the Islandbridge ford across the Liffey no doubt offered similar logistical advantages, Ms O'Brien argues.

The walled town of Dublin was not founded until AD 917, as one of a series of Viking urban centres that included Cork, Limerick, and Waterford; excavations in the 1970s at the famous Wood Quay site uncovered dozens of houses and well-preserved artefacts, close to Christ Church Cathedral and Dublin Castle, the most visible signs of the city's later prosperity.

The earlier phase of Viking penetration of Ireland, between the first recorded raid in AD 795 and the abandonment of the Dublin *longphort* in 902, has now begun to emerge as the result of research. Writing in the same special Viking issue of *Archaeology Ireland*, John Bradley of University College Dublin notes that place names such as Smerwick, runestones and burials document a series of short-lived settlements as far away as Galway and Kerry in the far south-west.

The most recent discovery, by a joint team from the universities in Cork and Belfast, is at Lonehort Harbour, on Bere Island in western Cork. Underwater survey by the Belfast archaeologists revealed a stone breakwater and jetty, while on land a *naust* or boathouse was excavated by the Crok team.

☐ Source: *Archaeology Ireland* Vol 9 No.3 (Issue 33)

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W. Anderson
and Miss L.G. Coppel
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs P. Anderson, of Dunboyne, Co Meath, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs N.J. Coppel, of Drumbo, Co Antrim.

Mr J.L. Holden
and Miss S.A. Dawson
The engagement is announced between Jason, eldest son of Mr Ralph Holden and Mrs Linda Holden, of Oldham, Lancashire, and Samantha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Dawson, of Rothwell, Yorkshire.

Mr T.W.H. Lloyd-Jones
and Miss I.S. de Voghelaere Parr
The engagement is announced between Tomas, youngest son of the late Colonel John Lloyd-Jones and of Mrs Mary Lloyd-Jones, of Guildford, Surrey, and Isabel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Parr, of Widmerpool, Nottinghamshire.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
CAPTAIN: T.W. Hare - MoD Bath 22.03.96; F.H. Hiscock - JMOTS Turnhouse 26.04.96; T. Morton - Staff of FOSF 24.05.96; R.C. Pelly - MoD Bath 12.04.96; E.F. Searle - NBC Portsmouth 19.03.96.

COMMANDER: D.J. Filfield - Loan CDA HLS West Byfleet 22.03.96; G. Freeston - MoD London 26.04.96; P.N. Hibbert - Loan CDA ADAC Farnborough 29.03.96; M.I. Horrell - Staff of FOST Sea 14.06.96; G.R. Johnson - BDS Washington 07.06.96; G.J. Merrett - PJHQ Northwood 01.04.96; A.G.P. Pounder - SACLANT USA 03.05.96; S.A. Thomas - Staff of ISL/CNH 09.08.96; P.W.A. Wearmouth - Staff of CINCFLEET 19.04.96.

SURGEON COMMANDER: P.J. Buxton - RH Haslar 26.07.96; S.J. Ryder - Exchange USA 01.04.96.

Retirements
COMMANDER: J. Davis - 22.04.96; I.N.L. Gallen - 03.04.96.

Marriages

Mr S.J. Reeve-Tucker
and Miss L.M. Barran
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Chelsea, of Mr Stephen Reeve-Tucker, fourth son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel T.S.W. Reeve-Tucker and of Mrs Reeve-Tucker, of Ross-on-Wye, to Miss Lalage Barran, younger daughter of Sir David and Lady Barran, of Kensington Square, London. Father Patrick Nolan, Dom Antony Sutch and Dom Philip Jebb officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily and Cosmo Barran, Laetitia Lucy, Camilla Millard, Casimir Owen-Edmunds, Oliver Posgate, Arabella Reeve-Tucker, Clementine Reeve-Tucker, Olivia and Alexander Reeve-Tucker, Jessica Vernon and Oswald Woloshyn. Mr Robert Finlayson was best man.

A reception was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr C. Howe
and Miss A. Lancaster
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday, January 27, at St Mary's, Bourne Street, London, between Mr Christopher Howe and Miss Alison Lancaster. Father Bill Scott officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Iain McQuiston, was attended by Holly, Frederick and Edward Howe. Mr Peter Hodsoll was best man.

Latest wills

Mr Michael Barrie **Goulden**, of Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands, left estate valued at £191,276 net.
He left all his estate to the charity known as The Crystal Group, Browns Brocks Cottage, Fairwarp, Uckfield, East Sussex.

Mrs Margorie **Martin**, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,020,177 net.
After personal bequests she left the residue equally between the RSPCA, National Trust, RSPB, International League for the Protection of Horses, RNID, RNIB and RUKBA.

Mrs Francis Martin **Payne**, of Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £6,923,096 net.

Mr Harry **Ridehalgh**, of London SW6, former senior partner in the international consulting engineers, Sir William Halcrow and Partners, left estate valued at £1,482,621 net.

Mr Leo Frederick **Leffman**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £3,160,958 net.
Among several bequests he left £250,000 to the Jewish Blind Society and £100,000 equally between Battersea Dogs Home, the National Canine Defence League and Blue Cross.

Mr David Harry **Wills**, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, left estate valued at £5,762,544 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mrs Sheila Valerie **Bonsor**, of Tring, Herts £1,210,180
Mr George Lane **Hooson**, of Addington, Kent £1,019,376
Mrs Patrica Betty **Nicholls**, of Cheltenham £1,058,136
Betty **Taylor**, of Hindhead, Surrey £1,631,154
Mrs Sarah Kathleen **West**, of Harrogate £1,118,038

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James 4 : 12 (REB)

BIRTHS

CADBURY - On 14th January, to Lindsey (née Summers) and Mark, a son, Henry Richard, a brother for Jack.

CARDEN - On January 23rd, to Jill and Nicholas, a son, Laurence Thomas Robert.

CHAMBERS - On 24th January 1996, to Michael and Karen, a son, Jacob Michael

GIBBS - On 26th January 1996, to Sarah (née Mill) and Jonathan, a son Andrew Joseph, a brother for Alexandra.

LOVERING - On 24th January, to Claire and David, a son, Benjamin.

MCNAMARA - On 26th January 1996, to Clive and Yvette, announce the birth of Katie Elizabeth Mcnamara

MILTON - On January 24th in New York, to Geoffrey and Joan-Marie, a son, Pace Tarrant and a daughter, Noël Marie, a brother and sister for Paul and James.

RAYMENT - On 31st December 1995, to Susan (née Alcock) and Christopher, a beautiful son, Louis Christopher, a brother for Alexander.

TOTTERMAN - On 22nd January 1996 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to Robin and Caroline a son Max Christian, a brother for Alexander.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Alan Curtis died 25 January after a long illness. Dearly loved and much mourned by his wife Claire and son Simon. Cremation private. Donations if wished to Alzheimers Society, Salisbury.

BOYLE - Hubert William, suddenly at home outside Granada, Spain, on January 14th, beloved husband of Phoebe and father of Michael, Stephen and Dominic. A Thanksgiving Ceremony will be held in England later.

CAYFORD - Christabel the beloved wife of Berkeley Denis and mother of Philip and Paul died peacefully on Tuesday 23rd January 1996, aged 74 years. Private Cremation will be followed by a memorial service at Compton Abbas Parish Church on Wednesday 31st January at 2 pm. Donations if desired for C.P.R.E. may be sent to Merefield & Henstridge, F/D, Melbury Abbas, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0BU.

CLIFTON - Alys Bridget suddenly on January 24th. Much loved sister and Aunt. Service 2.00 pm Tuesday January 30th at Llanbadarn Fawr Aberystwyth. Flowers or donations to the British Red Cross.

DEATHS

DAVIE - (née Henderson) Betty much loved wife of the late Sir Paul, died peacefully on 24th January. Private cremation. Memorial Service will be held at St Mary the Virgin, Bentley, Hants., at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 21st February. No flowers, please, donations to National Deaf Children's Society, 45 Hereford Road, W2 5AH.

DUDLEY SMITH - Anthony, Lt. Col. (ret'd) late Northumberland Fusiliers, peacefully at his beloved Earls Croome on January 25th 1996 aged 84, dear husband of Eleanor, father of Alwyn and Jackie, stepfather of Sue and Robert. Service at St Nicholas Church, Earls Croome, on Friday February 2nd at 2.30 pm.

FENTON - On 25th January 1996 peacefully at home in Bolton, Eamon Fenton, the dearly loved husband of Cynthia, much loved father of Peter, Keith and Ruth, dear grandad of Neal, Anna and Evan. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday 2nd February 1996 in St Anne's Church, Turton, Bolton at 11.30 am. Donations to Eamon's memory would be appreciated for Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary. Donations and enquiries to Relphs Funeral Service, Arden House, Blackburn Road, Bolton, tel: (01204) 523488.

FOOT - Suddenly on 19th January 1996, Gillian Catherine Mary (Gill Nadin, Lincolnshire Painter) aged 67 years. The much loved wife of Anthony and loving mother of Catherine, Nicola and Julian. A private family funeral service will take place on Tuesday 30th January with a Memorial Service being held at St James's Church, Louth, Lincolnshire on Thursday 29th February 1996, at 2 pm. Floral Tributes if so desired, will be received by John Watson Funeral Service, 71 Charles Street, Louth, Lincolnshire. Tel: (01507) 602 308, where further enquiries may be made.

FRANKLIN-ADAMS - On January 23rd at London Bridge Hospital after a long illness but keeping a sense of humour till the end. (Daphne) Joan aged 75 years. Dear mother of Patrick and Anthea, grandmother of Katherine, James, Nessie, Jonathon; Samantha and Ben. Private Cremation. Thanksgiving Service 2.00 pm Thursday February 1st at St Paul's Church, Woldingham. No flowers but donations would be appreciated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Ebbutt Funeral Services, High Street, Limpsfield RH8 0DR.

HOUGHTON - On 26th January 1996 in his 88th year, Frederick, formerly County Librarian of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium on Monday February 5th at 12.00 noon.

DEATHS

HILLARD - Monica Constance, beloved wife of Richard Hillard, died in her sleep at home on 25th January 1996. Funeral 12 noon at St Marys Church Staunton-on-Wye. Flowers if desired to S.A. Evans, Hereford (01432 273736).

ISAACS - Norma (née Segal) on 24th January, peacefully at the London Clinic, aged 72 years. Adored wife of Eric and a very devoted mother and grandmother. Funeral Service to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 31st January at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations for Cancer Research may be sent c/o W. Garstin & Son, 12 Chiltern Street, London W1M 1PD.

LEE - On 11th January 1996, in Boulogne Sur Mer, France, in his 87th year, Wing Cmdr Asher Lee OBE, American Legion of Merit, Wartime Air Intelligence. A Requiem Mass will be held at Notre Dame de France Church, Leicester Place, London SW1 at 11 am on Tuesday 30th January.

MACADIE - Muriel Olive MacAdie. On 26 January 1996, aged 85. Peacefully at Dellwood Community Hospital, Reading, Berks. Former Head of English at Brondesbury & Kilburn High School for Girls. Much loved by sisters-in-law Winifred and Beryl, nephews Andrew and Christopher and their families and by her very many friends. Funeral Service at St. Andrew's Church, Caversham, Reading at 11.45 a.m. on Thursday 1 February followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Enquiries concerning donations to A.B. Walker & Son, 36 Eldon Road, Reading, RG1 4DL (01734 573650).

MAYER - Alan Edward Mayer DL, KSG. On 25th January 1996. Suddenly at home, aged 56. Requiem Mass Thursday 12.30 pm. 1st February, All Hallows Catholic Church, School Road, Miskin, Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan. No flowers please but donations to 'Friends of Ampleforth Lourdes Sick' c/o The Procurator, Ampleforth College, York, YO6 4ER. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date in London.

PHARAOH - Noel Derrick Pharaoh. Christmas Day 1915 to January 26th 1996. Beloved husband for 53 years of Joan. Loving father of Vanda and Elaine and adored grandad of James and Noelle. Service of Thanksgiving at St Helens Church Escrick near York on Friday February 2nd at 1.00 pm. No flowers, but a plate will be provided in church for donations if so desired for St Leonards Hospice and Escrick Church.

PHILLIPS - On January 24th suddenly but peacefully Bernard "Ben" F.C.A., aged 81 years. Pioneering Insolvency Practitioner. Devoted and adored husband of Lilian, loving and dependable dad of Peter, Diane, Kate and Sunara and a proud grandpa. Enquiries to H.D.Tribe Ltd., tel: (01903) 249913.

RAY-JONES - Effie Irene, much loved mother and grandmother. Died peacefully at Royal London Hospital Whitechapel on 26th January 1996, in her 96th year. Funeral on Thursday 1st February at 2pm at St Giles Cripplegate. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Bristol Cancer Help Centre, Grove House, Cornwallis Grove, Bristol, BS8 4PG.

RELF - On 23rd January 1996. Raymond, much loved husband of Romy, father of Barnaby and brother of Peggy, died suddenly at The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 6th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations appreciated to The Neuro Surgical Research Fund c/o T.H. Sanders & Sons, 36 Barnes High Street, SW13 9LP.

STANLEY-CLARKE - Olive (née Carroll-Leahy) on January 26th peacefully at home, in her 101st year. Widow of Brigadier A.C. (Kit) Stanley-Clarke and dearly loved aunt of Patricia, David, Anna Rose and Michael. A service of thanksgiving, in Ireland, to be announced.

SYMINGTON - Aileen, died suddenly on January 25, 1996. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Service at Cleish Parish Church on Wednesday, January 31 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to, Save the Children Fund, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

TRIGG - On 24th January 1996, peacefully at home, Peter William of Lindfield. Much loved husband of Marjorie, father of Jonathan and Sarah and grandfather. Funeral Service to be held on Friday 2nd February at All Saints Church, Lindfield, West Sussex at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St Peters and St James Hospice may be sent c/o Masters and Son, 4 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2LB, (01444) 482107.

TYLER - Cyril. Passed peacefully away at his home in Reading on 25th January, 1996. Much loved husband of Rita and father of Jonathan, Rodney and Hilary. Funeral Service at Park United Reformed Church, Reading, on Friday 2nd February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please - donations to 'Save the Children' c/o A.B. Walker and Son Limited, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL, tel: (01734) 573650.

WEEKS - Harold Wyndham. Peacefully in hospital after a brief illness, aged 88, pursuing bravely to the last. Much loved husband of the late Eira, sadly missed by his three sons and their wives Jonathan and Anthea, Roger and Christiane, Geoffrey and Patsey and his seven grandchildren. Service and cremation at Kingston Crematorium Thursday 1st February, at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations welcomed by Friends of Surbiton Hospital, Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6EZ.

WRIGHT - Ralph Peter aged 81. Formerly of Rugby School. Peacefully on 27th January. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. No flowers. Donations to Shelter.

WIGHTWICK - Margaret Olivia, formerly Squadron Leader W.A.A.F., widow of Geoffrey, peacefully at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford on 26th January, aged 94. Much loved by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass at St. Anselm's Church, Hindhead, at 10.00am on Wednesday 31 January. Donations, if desired, to St. Anselm's Church for the fabric fund.

YOUNG - Gertrude Marion aged 91 on 26th January 1996 at Claremont Hospital, Sheffield formerly of The Croft, Sandygate Road, Sheffield. Daughter of the late Smeller and Edith Young of Richmond Park, Sheffield. Greatly loved by her brother Gerard, her sisters in law, her nieces and nephews and their families. Requiem Mass at St Francis of Assisi Church, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, February 3rd 1996 at 12.00 noon followed by burial at St Josephs Church, Handsworth. Flowers c/o John Heath and Sons, Earsham Street, Sheffield S4 7LS.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARTON - Heather 28th January 1995. Our love, as always. Ray and the family.

HACKETT - Cliff. 29th January 1985. Most lovingly remembered this day and every day. Joanne & Adam.

NASSAR - Remy Edward, 29th January 1993. In our thoughts always.

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LEGAL NOTICES

GEORGE'S FLORISTS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 6th February 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 99 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., PO Box 553 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. Dated this 23rd January 1996. D.K. Faris, Liquidator.

MAIN-CHAIN LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Act 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Michael J C Oldham, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 24th January 1996. DATED this 24 January 1996 Michael J C Oldham, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 0012 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
(COMPANIES COURT)
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF KRATOS GROUP PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
TO HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
THE HUMBLE PETITION OF KRATOS GROUP PLC
shows as follows:-
ADVERTISEMENT OF DAY FIXED FOR HEARING PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 10th day of January 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £28,519,842 to £18,760,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Judge Maddocks at the High Court of Justice, Crown Square, Manchester on Thursday, the 8th day of February 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of Hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 26th day of January 1996.
Messrs. Rowley Dickinson,
Solicitors,
Halifax House,
93/101, Bridge Street,
Manchester, M3 2GX.
REF: ATS/AJH
Solicitors for the above named Company.

No. 00115 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF EXPAMET INTERNATIONAL PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 8th January 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court, sitting in an open court, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 7th February 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 29th day of January 1996.
Herbert Smith
Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2HS.
0171 374 8000
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Refer to: Stephen Hancock or Alexandra Upton.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - Sue Ryder Foundation Scheme.
Reference:222291A/5-Legal (Liv)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. Copies can be obtained from them at 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ (quoting the reference above).

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

BARBARA SKELTON

Barbara Skelton, writer, died in Worcestershire from a brain tumour on January 27 aged 79. She was born in Maidenhead on June 26, 1916.

THE former wife of both Cyril Connolly and George Weidenfeld, Barbara Skelton enjoyed the reputation of being one of the leading *femmes fatales* of postwar London. But, in a sense, that reputation did her less than justice. A talented writer, she was the author of two novels, *A Young Girl's Touch* (1956), dedicated to Connolly and published by Weidenfeld, and *A Love Match* (1969), withdrawn that same year after legal objections from another admirer, John Sutro. But if her luck was mixed as a novelist, she had better fortune as a short story writer, and her *Born Losers* (1965) remains a classic collection.

Above all, however, she is likely to be remembered for her two volumes of memoirs published when she was already into her seventies: *Tears Before Bedtime* (1987) and *Weep No More* (1989). Both books have something in them of her own personality — irreverent, funny and wholly unconventional. With her predominantly child-like qualities, she may have lived for pleasure but — to do her justice — she wrote for it, too.

There seems little doubt that Connolly was the love of her life and in *Tears Before Bedtime* (the better of the two works) she writes about him with an abiding affection which even exasperation cannot wholly conceal. It offers a vivid portrait of a thoroughly bohemian lifestyle in which comfort took second place.

That, though, was not necessarily true of luxury, for Skelton also gives a full account of her *affaire* with the young King Farouk of Egypt — in which, on financial grounds alone, Connolly at first seems to have encouraged her ("After all, a king's a king"). Skelton may have become sensitive about this episode later — particularly resenting the charge that she had been set up in a villa overlooking the Gezira Sporting Club when all the time she was living in a humble Italian *pensione*. But, as with Connolly, she appears to have retained an affection for Farouk, whose good qualities she consistently showed herself anxious to emphasise. (The world, alas, is more likely to recall his curious habit of whipping her with a dressing-gown cord.)

The one person about whom she could be said to have shown a lack of charity was her second husband, George Weidenfeld — whose hirsute physical characteristics and invariable command on social occasions to "gush, gush" she unkindly preserved for posterity. But, although she struck the first blow in *Weep No More* (and even before that in a short story, "What's New", in which Weidenfeld appears as a character called "Weingorse"), he at least had the right of reply in his own memoirs, *Remembering My Good Friends* (1995).

He exercised it, however, with considerable restraint, describing their 1955-56 relationship as "an obsession that dwarfed everything else" and their six-month marriage as being approached "with a deep sense of doom" on both sides. The truth, of course, was that she had never really wanted to give up Connolly (who at the time had gone off with someone else), and there was a certain symmetry in the fact that in the two successive divorce cases Weidenfeld should have been the co-respondent in the first and Connolly in the second. Although she went back fleetingly to Connolly, they did not marry again, her third husband being the immensely rich and eventually six-times-married Professor Derek Jackson — from whom, after a very brief time as man-and-wife, she was fortunate enough to obtain a handsome settlement. After her parting with Jackson she lived first in Provence and then near Paris, returning to live in Chelsea only a couple of years ago.

In her way of life Barbara Skelton was, no doubt, partly the product of her background. The elder daughter of a Regular Army officer and a former Gaiety Girl, she had a peripatetic childhood in which there was little promise of the slinky beauty to come: with typical candour she even described herself while young as "bun-faced with slanting, sludge-coloured eyes". Life, however, began to look up once she had been seduced by a wealthy family friend in the Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton.

A trip to India (where her paternal uncle was in charge of medical services) followed but that also ended in disgrace when her army officer lover stowed away on the home-going ship, was discovered and eventually faced a court-martial. Once home, she became briefly a model for the Italian designer Schiaparelli, before taking her first wartime job in a factory. She did not find this congenial and in 1941 managed to find war work with the Yugoslav-Government-in-Exile. This, in turn, led to Donald Maclean (later the defector) suggesting that she should go out to Cairo as a cipher clerk in the British Embassy. This she duly did — and the rest, after various romantic excursions, became postwar literary history.

Barbara Skelton, who was looked after in her last illness by Connolly's daughter of his second marriage, had no children of her own.

HAROLD BRODKEY

Harold Brodkey, author, died from an Aids-related illness on January 26 aged 65. He was born on October 25, 1930.

THERE were two schools of thought regarding the American novelist Harold Brodkey: the first that he was one of America's most gifted living writers, and worthy of comparison with Proust or Walt Whitman; the second that he was an amusing fraud, whose celebrity in Manhattan literary circles was a classic case of the emperor's clothes.

Justification for the second opinion rested on Brodkey's remarkably slender output. After a much heralded debut with a charming collection of short stories, Brodkey had begun work on his *magnum opus*, his great novel, in the early 1960s. *The Runaway Soul* was finally published in 1991, thirty years later. And in the interim only a handful of articles and excerpts from the novel had appeared in print. After all the advance publicity, much of it self-generated, it was not surprising that Brodkey was nervous of throwing himself to the lion's den of critics.

During those thirty years, Brodkey, as the potential deliverer of the Great American Novel, had become more famous than anything he had, or had not, written. He had ridden the 1980s wave of author-as-celebrity in triumph. John Updike had reputedly used him as his model for the devil in *The Witches of Eastwick*. Jay McInerney had caricatured him as Victor Propp in *Brightness Falls* as a "longterm, highly speculative literary investment" whose "reputation grew with each book he failed to publish".

It was only natural, therefore, that after such a protracted gestation, the book would disappoint some reviewers when it was finally published. After struggling through *The Runaway Soul*'s impenetrably dense prose, one critic concluded that death would have been a smarter career move for Brodkey than publication.

But there were others, Salman Rushdie among them, who found flashes of real genius here, excellent writing that was worth any number of safer, more conventional novels.

Harold Brodkey was born Aaron Roy Weintraub, in Staunton, Illinois. His father was an illiterate, semi-professional prizefighter. His mother died when he was 17 months old, after which he was adopted by his father's cousins, Joseph and Doris Brodkey. He was a brilliant child but fragile, and he had a number of nervous breakdowns. He graduated from Harvard in 1952 and began to publish essays and poetry for *The New Yorker* and *American Poetry Review*.

In 1957 his first book was published, a collection of short stories, *First Love and Other Sorrows*. They were written in clear, unaffected prose, and marked Brodkey out as someone to watch. There followed the Prix de Rome in 1959, and in 1964 Brodkey was commissioned to write a novel.

The saga of what followed passed into publishing history, as Brodkey painstakingly corrected his manuscript, wearing down the patience of several generations of editors. By the mid-1970s, the manuscript was rumoured to have reached several thousand pages in length. Then, in 1977, *The New York Times* ran a jubilant, front-page headline: "Brodkey Delivers." Silence followed from Brodkey, who was still refining the manuscript. Ten years later, in 1986, *The Washington Post* also reported that the end was in sight: "Now there is real reason to believe that Brodkey is loosening his hold on the novel." Brodkey responded by allowing several extracts from the novel to be published in *The New Yorker*. Another collection of short stories, *The Abundant Dreamer*, was quietly published in 1989. That year the novel was advertised in a publisher's catologue but Brodkey changed his mind and withdrew it for further revisions. Two years later *The Runaway Soul*, as the novel was now called, was published at last.

Written in an intensely rich prose style, *The Runaway Soul* was very different from those early short stories. It told the story of Wiley Silenowicz, his relationships with his parents and with women, and its aim was to describe the workings of human consciousness on a level never before attempted in a novel, to capture the sensation of the passage of individual moments as they are lived. In practice, this could mean that the single action of waking and walking to the bathroom could take four chapters to describe.

The novel was written in what Frank Kermode once described as prose of "painful abundance", with eccentric syntax and arbitrary use of capital letters and italics. Meaning was quite often obscured behind a barrage of images. But when it worked, Brodkey could deliver some striking lines, as when he described the air at dawn: "Partly asleep, partly a-dance, but in veils, trembling with heavy moisture".

Two years later Brodkey discovered that he was HIV positive. By this time he was settled in New York with his second wife, Ellen Schwamm, also a novelist (his first marriage had ended in divorce). She survives him, together with a daughter, stepdaughter and two stepsons.

JÓZSEF MOLNÁR

József Molnár, interpreter at the British Embassy in Budapest, died on January 9 in Australia aged 74. He was born in Budapest on April 24, 1921.

ALTHOUGH a retiring and quietly spoken man, József Molnár had a natural gift for languages — a gift which he was to put to important use in building up an increasingly better understanding between his native Hungarians and the British in postwar years.

When Hungary entered the war in alliance with Nazi Germany, Molnár was employed as an interpreter between a divisional headquarters and the German corps to which he was attached. In 1945 when his unit surrendered to British troops, he began to act as an interpreter, this time between the British and the city's British-appointed German mayor of Hanover.

Molnár grew to respect the British during his dealings with them. When he returned to a shattered Hungary in 1946, he got employment with a team from the Imperial War Graves Commission engaged in recovering for reburial the remains of British and Empire aircrew who had been shot down. Hungarian officers, he used to say, would have started the digging, and then left the delicate and unpleasant task of recovering the remains to the least-regarded of their men. The British reversed the process.

It was not long before Molnár drifted into the service of the newly-established British Legation in Budapest, an organisation for which he was to work until his retirement.

József Molnár, *third from the right, interpreting for Princess Margaret in Budapest, 1985*

He became the military attaché's interpreter and clerk, and in 1956 was given British citizenship. When the Hungarian Revolution came in the autumn of that year, it was he who provided much of the information reaching London about the course of events.

By the end of October, when it looked as though the Hungarians had succeeded in driving the Red Army out of Budapest, a discussion of events was staged between the British military attaché and Pál Maléter, the revolutionaries' military leader. Molnár's presence as an interpreter at this meeting was to lead to his brief imprisonment. For when, after severe and brutal fighting, Soviet forces suppressed the revolution and János Kádár returned to lead the new Communist government, Molnár, recognised from press photographs, was arrested and accused of conspiring with Western imperialists. It took all his calmness and transparent straightforwardness to persuade his interrogators that he had done no more than his interpreter's duty.

Almost three decades of quiet work in the British Legation followed. In the course of these years, Molnár perfected his English. He became a senior interpreter and excellent translator, as well as an explicator of the Hungarian language and all things Hungarian to a succession of British diplomats. Meanwhile, his wife Aranka was educating generation after generation of British toddlers in the Legation's little school.

For many years Molnár led a strange half-life, caught between British employers with whom friendship was always tempered by an inescapable reserve, a hatred of an oppressive communist regime, and aspirations for freedom and full sovereignty of the Hungarian people. However, the situation began slowly to change. British official visitors started to find their way to Hungary and Molnár came to serve not only as an interpreter, but also as mentor and friend.

He accompanied, among many others, both the Duke of Edinburgh when he visited Hungary to take part in four-in-hand championships, and Princess Margaret when she came with the Royal Ballet.

Molnár also escorted a succession of British ambassadors on their visits to various Communist Party secretaries, mayors, chambers of commerce and university faculties. He would interpret faithfully all that was said, but afterwards in the car would volunteer his own impressions of what had also, and crucially, not been said.

However, when the time came for Molnár's retirement, he chose not to stay in Hungary which still remained under Kádár's restrictive regime. He and his wife decided to follow his only daughter to Australia — she and her husband had moved there some years before and started their own family. His last years there were happy — though clouded by poverty and exile — and Mólnár continued to teach European languages.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

ANTHONY BESSEMER CLARK

Anthony Bessemer Clark, former managing director of the West of England P and I Club, died from cancer on January 4 aged 55. He was born on February 2, 1940.

THE international group of P and I (Protection and Indemnity) Clubs insures some 90 per cent of the world's commercial fleets, particularly in the fields of oil pollution and salvage. Anthony Bessemer Clark was both a barrister and an accountant and he thus brought these combined skills to building up the strength of the P and I Club in the West of England.

When he retired from its managing directorship in February 1995 he left behind him not just an organisation in a stronger financial position than at any time since its establishment but also one with a streamlined professional management well equipped to deal with the increasingly complex legal and practical issues associated with marine losses.

Anthony Bessemer Clark's antecedents, like his career, were varied and distinguished. He was a direct descendant on his father's side of the famous Victorian steelmaker Sir Henry Bessemer. His mother was Australian and her family was prominent in the public and social life of Melbourne. When he was only 12, his father was killed in a motor accident, and from then on he was brought up by his aunt Joan Bessemer Clark, herself a remarkable woman of many talents.

He was educated first in Australia and then in England. After Charterhouse, instead of going to a university, he was articled and qualified as an accountant. Although his numerate skills were considerable, he did not pursue this career but instead volunteered for service with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) in Nigeria, where he spent 18 colourful months before returning to London. There he joined Gray's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1968.

Through an introduction arranged by Lord Salmon he became a pupil in the chambers of Michael Kerr, QC (later Lord Justice Kerr) and then a member of the chambers in 1969. But for his illness, he would have returned to these chambers and resumed his practice — probably particularly as an arbitrator in commercial and shipping cases — after his retirement last year from P and I West of England.

As it was, his principal professional memorial has to be his work for P and I. His combined skills in two professions had already been valuable to him in starting a commercial practice, and it was not long before they were recognised in the City as well. He was offered, and accepted, a place with the West of England Club, then — as now — one of the leading exponents of this specialised form of mutual marine insurance.

This proved an excellent move. He soon demonstrated that, in addition to his qualifications as an accountant and a barrister, he had very considerable abilities as an administrator. His personal charm also made him a fine diplomat for the Club's business abroad, enabling him to establish good personal relations with the shipowners from all the maritime nations of the world who were the Club's members and directors.

He also became a leading figure in the activities of the British Maritime Law Association, part of the Comité Maritime Internationale. There, his special concern was the legal regulation of the consequences of oil spillages and other kinds of pollution damage. The efforts of many people, including his, bore fruit in the proposals which were adopted at the CMI Conference in Sydney in October 1994.

During his last years with the Club he found himself in the unenviable and undeserved position of facing growing demands from the Lloyd's insurance syndicates, of which he was a long-standing member. Characteristically, he made a positive contribution to the steps which were taken in order to obtain compensation when this was due to the Names. His knowledge of the law and practice of the insurance market helped, among others, the Feltrim Names Committee, which succeeded in its claim for many millions of pounds.

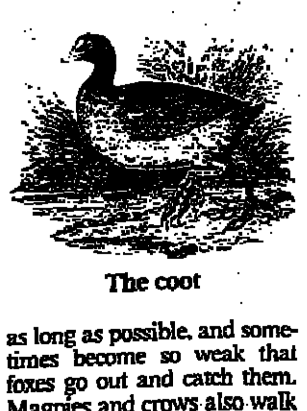
He was anxious not to stand in the way of his younger successors and so he set for himself his retirement date after ten years as managing director. But as the date approached he became obviously unwell and soon, though not immediately, cancer was diagnosed. Throughout his illness he showed an extraordinary calmness and courage. It seemed by last autumn that he was restored to good health, but it was not to be.

He is survived by his wife Helen, whom he married in 1970, and by a son and a daughter.

Nature notes

THERE has obviously been a considerable invasion of waxwings from Scandinavia. A flock of 150 has appeared in Edinburgh, and small parties have been reported in many other places in Scotland and along eastern England. They are pinkish-brown birds, with a sharp crest, and white, yellow and red markings on the wing. They are quite tame, and some have been found feeding on exotic berries in suburban gardens: they hang upside down like tits.

In the frost and snow, small birds have been flocking into gardens where water has been put out for them: it is just as



The coot

as long as possible, and sometimes become so weak that foxes go out and catch them. Magpies and crows also walk around foraging on the ice. Many ducks go to the sea.

Where foxes are hunting in the snow, their tracks can be distinguished by the line made

Scottish Episcopal Church

Appointments

Richard Fisher, previously Curate at Acomb in the Diocese of York to be Mission Priest at Kingswell, Aberdeen.

Paul John Tarrant, Vicar of St Andrew's, Little Compton, Rhode Island, USA, to be Rector of Old St Paul's, Edinburgh.

Stuart Campbell Bonney, Chaplain at HMP Moorland, Doncaster, to be Priest in Charge at St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow.

Roger Mansfield Watts, Assistant Curate at Henfield, Shermanbury, and Woodmancote, Sussex, to be Rector of St John's, Jedburgh.

Roger Cutler, permission to officiate in diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Brother Amos, SSF, commissioned as priest in the diocese of Glasgow honorary Assistant Deacon at St Peter's Thurso and St John's Wick.

John Malcolm Richardson, Rector of St Mary's Newport and St Margaret's Tayport, to be Rector of St John's Forfar.

Resignations

Allan David Bruno, previously Rector of Christ Church Falkirk, is now Personal Executive ssistant to the Bishop of Bradford.

John Frederick Ames Farrant, as Synod Clerk and Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, as Rector of St James the Less Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton. He is to be the Chaplain at Holy Trinity Funchal, Madeira, Diocese of Europe.

Brother Benedict SSF to leave the brothers at Barrowfield and move to the Community of the Divine

ON THIS DAY

January 29, 1925

"The issue is simply whether an employer shall be compelled to dismiss a man who has ceased to be a member of a trade union." Much more was to be heard of this kind of controversy.

ROYAL PALACE PICKETED.

OFFICE OF WORKS STRIKE WIDENED.

(By Our Labour Correspondent)

The strike by the thousand employees at the Office of Works who are responsible for maintaining the heating and lighting services of the Government offices, the Royal Palaces and House of Commons, and certain other public buildings in London, was continued yesterday, and discussions in the Joint Industrial Council for the Department failed to bring about a settlement.

The stoppage of work had wider extent yesterday than on Tuesday, and for the first time in the history of this country, men employed at Royal Palaces joined in a strike. Buckingham Palace was picketed — the King and Queen are at Sandringham. The engineering staffs at Marlborough House and St James's Palace also left work. So did the men at the British Museum who had remained on duty on Tuesday. The buildings affected by the strike yesterday were the following:

Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Marlborough House, the Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, all the Government

Court, and County Courts.

Representatives of the strikers claimed that the strike was complete; and it appeared indeed that it was. But it was not difficult to organise a volunteer staffs in nearly all cases. The Office of Works stated early in the day that the joining in the strike of the Buckingham Palace workmen had been anticipated and provided for, and that the usual services were being maintained without inconvenience. It

cleaning of the internal fittings.

The issue, raised primarily by the Electrical Trade Union is clear cut. It is simply whether an employer of labour — in this case the Government — shall be compelled to dismiss a man who has ceased to be a member of a trade union. If the unions were able to maintain this demand they would be in a position to present to all workmen the alternative of membership of the union or unemployment. There is no question of the observance of trade union conditions. The Office of Works takes common ground with employers generally in declining to make membership of a union a condition of employment. The Electrical Trades Union has gone so far as to say in the present instance that it will not reinstate the defaulting member in the union.

To be consistent it would have to oppose his employment anywhere and therefore it is committed to the policy of driving him out of his trade. The man whose non-payment of the union subscriptions has caused all the trouble stated yesterday that so far as he was concerned the position was that the Electrical Trades union would not have him, the Office

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996

NEWS

Labour fury over 'villain' attack

■ *The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, sparked* outrage and predictions of the dirtiest general election campaign in modern history last night after branding Labour the villain's friend.

He enraged Labour leaders as he tried to extend Tory charges of hypocrisy against the party, made during last week's dispute over the school Harriet Harman's son is being sent to, to its stance on law and order .... **Page 1**

Millionaire gunman hides in mansion

■ Police marksmen and SWAT teams were surrounding the Pennsylvania mansion of John du Pont, an eccentric multimillionaire, last night after the shooting of an Olympic wrestler. *Mr du Pont, himself an expert shot, barricaded* himself inside the house .... **Pages 1, 3**

Council tax rises

Council Tax increases of more than three times the level of inflation for millions of householders *are to be confirmed, with London* and other urban areas facing even steeper rises .... **Page 1**

Boy dies in snow

A boy aged five froze to death 200 yards from his home in Middlesbrough after going missing while *building a snowman* .... **Page 1**

Soldiers killed

Three British soldiers were presumed dead in Bosnia last night after their armoured vehicle hit a landmine in unmarked fields .... **Pages 1, 8**

'Gagging' row

Lord Donaldson, a former Master of the Rolls, warned of the *damage caused to the courts by a* parliamentary motion identifying Sarah Keays and her daughter in breach of a High Court "gagging" order .... **Page 2**

Peace talks dispute

Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister attacked *Britain for its dealings* with Dublin over the peace process. Dick Spring said Britain spread rumours that he took a harder line than John Bruton, the Prime Minister .... **Page 2**

Aggressive policing

An aggressive American "can do" style of policing, which has cut crime in New York, is being examined by British forces .. **Page 5**

Pensioner parents

A sharp increase in the number of men fathering children in their 40s and 50s is likely to put the *family unit under severe strain in* the next decade .... **Page 6**

Oyster bar

European rules which set the same tough conditions on the transportation of mussels, oysters and winkles as those for veal *calves have been blocked by the* Government .... **Page 7**

Kashmir tension

Cross-border tensions are high in Kashmir after a weekend of intensive firing between Indian and Pakistani troops .... **Page 9**

Gloom for Dole

Rain pummelled New Hampshire and a day on the stump with *Robert Dole, the Republican pres*idential frontrunner, did absolutely nothing to dispel the gloom .... **Page 10**

'Stupid' Clinton

Hillary Clinton was portrayed yesterday as having a "dark side" *and of denouncing President* Clinton in front of others for being "stupid" .... **Page 10**

French divided

The uncertain future of European monetary union has left the French Government deeply divided as its leaders struggle to convince the public that France can meet the criteria for a single currency .... **Page 11**

Branson balloonists look north

■ Richard Branson and his fellow round-the-world balloonists are preparing to follow the route of the pioneering Swedish balloonist Salomon August Andrée, who froze to death in the Arctic. Emergency plans were drawn up at the weekend by the *Virgin Global Challenger* team to adopt a more northerly route to avoid sub-tropical thunderstorms .... **Page 7**

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Dancers in *Cats* which, with its 6,138th performance today, becomes London and Broadway's longest running musical. Page 3

BUSINESS

Gas protest: Complaints about *British Gas more than* doubled last year with almost 50,000 customers taking their grievances to the Gas Consumers Council .... **Page 40**

Flag of convenience: P&O is to re-register five of its biggest container ships under the Bermudan flag of convenience, dealing a further blow to Britain's status as a maritime nation .... **Page 40**

Virgin deal: The Virgin Group is close to *signing a £100 million deal* to acquire Reed Consumer Books, gaining control of Hamlyn, Heinemann, Methuen and Secker & Warburg .... **Page 37**

Orders static: Small and medium enterprises reported a virtual *standstill in total orders over the* past four months .... **Page 36**

ARTS

Better parks: Today the Heritage Lottery Fund *will announce a pro*gramme of £50 million over three years that should help improve Britain's city parks .... **Page 13**

Superb singer: Tenor Ian Bostridge's recital was "quite simply some of the finest singing the Wigmore Hall has heard in the past ten years" .... **Page 13**

Question of taste: Naomi Wallace's new play for the RSC, *Slaughter City, may not be to ev*eryone's taste. But, says Benedict Nightingale, if it fails at least it fails in style .... **Page 12**

Few laughs: The vanished world of 1950s Variety is recreated in Jack Shepherd's play, *Comic Cuts*. But Jeremy Kingston didn't find much to laugh about .... **Page 12**

FEATURES

New romantics: The golden age of tartan and peroxide has returned. Giles Coren on the latest nostalgia on the dance floor .... **Page 15**

Bitter fight: Meg Henderson, the *novelist, describes how she has* been patronised and ignored in her struggle to have her mentally ill daughter sterilised .... **Page 15**

MIND AND MATTER

Forty winks: Anxiety about poor sleep is turning into a national preoccupation, reports Jeremy Laurance in the first of a two-part series on sleep .... **Page 14**

Noise factors: Hearing is the one sense that cannot be shut down during sleep, and so without earplugs any external noise is registered by the brain .... **Page 14**

SPORT

Football: A penalty goal by Dwight Yorke put Aston Villa through to the fifth round of the FA Cup, securing a 1-0 victory over Sheffield United .... **Page 21**

Rugby union: *England have made* one change, recalling Tim Rodber to take the place of Steve Ojomoh in the back row of the scrum for the five nations' championship game against Wales .... **Page 30**

Golf: Ian Woosnam, of Wales, without a win for 16 months, captured the Johnnie Walker Classic in Singapore, beating Andrew Coltart, of Scotland .... **Page 28**

Tennis: *Boris Becker, of Germany,* netted his first grand slam title in five years when he beat Michael Chang, of America, in the Australian Open final .... **Page 23**

Hockey: Great Britain beat Belgium 2-0 to finish the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona with an unbeaten seven-match record. They had already qualified for the Olympics .... **Page 22**

Rugby league: Martin Offiah scored four tries as Wigan, the holders, beat Bramley 74-12 in the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup .... **Page 30**

Racing: David Nicholson may aim his novice chaser, St Mellion Fairway, at the Cheltenham Cup, which was last won by a novice in 1974 .... **Page 32**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

16, 17, 38, 41, 42, 43. Bonus, 28

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Memories of the golden age of a rich hobby: *Classic ships* (Channel 4, 8.30). **Review:** Does Imelda Marcos deserve going ten *rounds with Ruby Wax, asks Mat*thew Bond .... **Page 39**

OPINION

Graves of Vlasenica

Whenever Western public opinion has shown signs of growing numb to news of Balkan cruelty, another mass grave is uncovered to remind *us of the ghoulish* nature of that conflict .... **Page 17**

Council of hope

*Last week's decision to admit Rus*sia to the Council of Europe has given rise to bitter debate in Moscow. The outcome will affect every country in Europe .... **Page 17**

Welcome back

Once upon a time there was a young girl from Novi Sad, in Yugoslavia. She played tennis, hitting the ball with a quite unladylike thump. Monica Seles .... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Even to Kohl, it must be beginning to look as though a single currency in 1999 is economically and politically impossible .... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Few are going to challenge Mr *Blair's authority and so threaten* Labour's electoral appeal when office at last seems to be within its grasp .... **Page 16**

OBITUARIES

Barbara Skelton, writer; **Harold Brodkey**, author; **József Molnár**, interpreter at the British Embassy in Budapest; **Anthony Bessemer Clark**, marine insurer .... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Education; Prince Charles and the millennium; eye tests .... **Page 17**

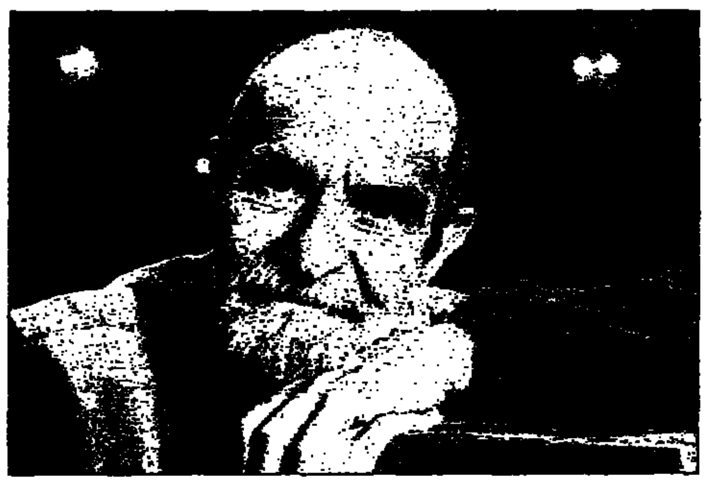
THE PAPERS

It is enraging to view the drug corruption in Columbia and elsewhere and the costs that it imposes *on Americans. But it is simplistic to* hold that suppliers and traffickers should simply cut the stuff off

— *The Washington Post*

Pressure from aid donors has yielded salutory results. Renewed pressure would show friends of press freedom in Kenya that their cause is neither forgotten nor lost

— *The New York Times*



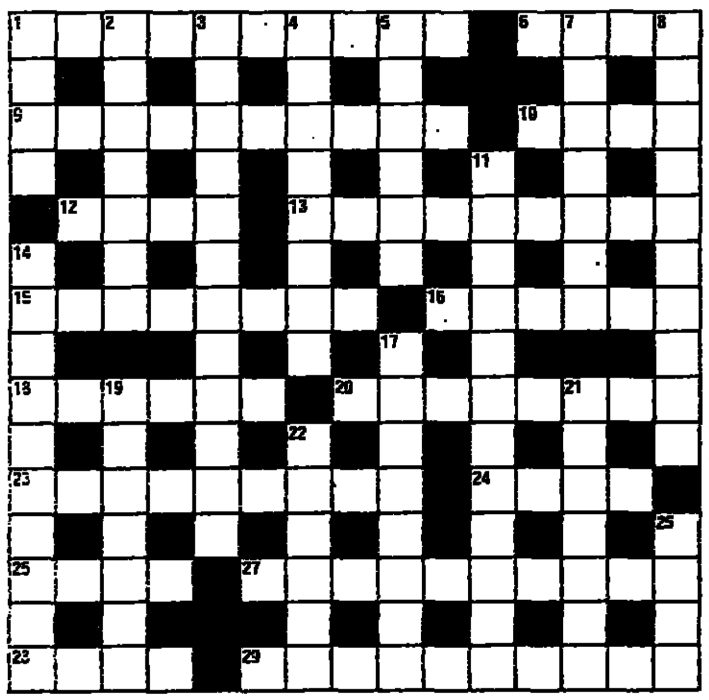
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ CHANGED TIMES
Why Athol Fugard and his fellow South African writers seek fresh inspirations

■ COURT BATTLE
Should the lid be lifted on the secrets of the jury system?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,076



ACROSS

1 [illegible] shown by writer in a recent [illegible]
6 Green-blue colour, as being viewed by Head of Art (4)
9 [illegible] in every type of surgery [illegible]
10 [illegible] fish (4)
12 [illegible] big Manx cat [illegible]
13 [illegible] personal issue one raises [illegible] private road [illegible]
15 Possible damage to speedy dispens[illegible]
16 Phase produced by opposing player [illegible] game of cards [illegible]
18 Regret a mark got early in term [illegible]
20 Function taken in by sportsman — [illegible] frequenting the theatre [illegible]
23 [illegible] made as climber's beginning in flatter surroundings [illegible]
24 Violent action [illegible] (4)
26 [illegible] finally breaking girl's bone [illegible]
27 Origin of a name encountered in part of France (10)
28 A notable achievement, whichever way you look at it [illegible]
29 A [illegible] situation for you, say? [illegible]

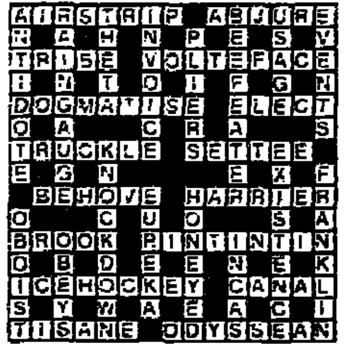
DOWN

1 Wander about, missing entrance to [illegible] (4)
2 Joint [illegible] provided by head upset over one [illegible]
3 Intolerant knight objected to sheathing weapon [illegible]
4 Declare arrival of a wild cat, say (8)
5 This driver and his mates appear in [illegible]
7 Amount of liquid initially enjoyable to some player [illegible]
8 Plant part is said to be twisted (10)
11 500 pounds to girl carrying right tool [illegible]
14 Deception sure to keep party leader enthralled [illegible]
17 Cricketer finished making garment [illegible]
19 Unusual team in Oriental performance [illegible]
21 For example, newspaper article about unknown fabric [illegible]
22 Drive fast and gain points out East, with [illegible]
25 It may restrain a boxer giving an attacking punch [illegible]

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,075 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single *highland malt whisky*.

Solution to The Times Qualifying puzzle No 20,067



AIRSTRIP ABJURE
N A H N P E S V
TRISE VOLTEFACE
I N T O I F G N
DOGMATISE ELECT
O A C R A S
TRUCKLE SETTEE
E G N E X F
BEHOVE HARRIER
O C U O S A
BROOK RINTINTIN
O B D E E N E K
ICEHOCKEY CANAL
S Y W A E A C I
TISANE ODYSSEAN

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Greater London	[illegible]
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	[illegible]
Dorset, Hants & IOW	[illegible]
Devon & Cornwall	[illegible]
Wilts, Glouc, Avon, Som	[illegible]
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	[illegible]
Beds, Herts & Essex	[illegible]
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	[illegible]
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	[illegible]
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	[illegible]
Central Midlands	[illegible]
East Midlands	[illegible]
Lincs & Humberside	[illegible]
Dyfed & Powys	[illegible]
Gwynedd & Clwyd	[illegible]
NW England	[illegible]
W & S Yorks & Dales	[illegible]
NE England	[illegible]
Cumbria & Lake District	[illegible]
SW Scotland	[illegible]
W Central Scotland	[illegible]
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	[illegible]
E Central Scotland	[illegible]
Grampian & E Highlands	[illegible]
NW Scotland	[illegible]
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	[illegible]
N Ireland	[illegible]

[illegible]

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

[illegible]

National traffic and roadworks

[illegible]

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises 7.45 am
Sun sets [illegible]
Moon sets 2.39 am
Moon rises [illegible]
Full moon February 4

London [illegible]
Bristol [illegible]
Edinburgh [illegible]
Manchester [illegible]
Penzance [illegible]

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England, Wales and eastern Scotland will have a bitterly cold day. It should be brighter in western Scotland, cloudy in N Ireland

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** mostly cloudy with occasional snow flurries. Wind east to northeast, fresh to strong. Bitterly cold. Max 0C (32F)

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, Central N:** bright spells with snow flurries. Wind east to northeast, moderate to fresh. Bitterly cold. Max 1C (34F)

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy with some light rain. Wind east, fresh to strong. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** bright spells with snow flurries. Wind east, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** some bright spells, especially in the West. Wind east, moderate. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry with sunny intervals. Wind east to southeast, moderate. Max 4C (39F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

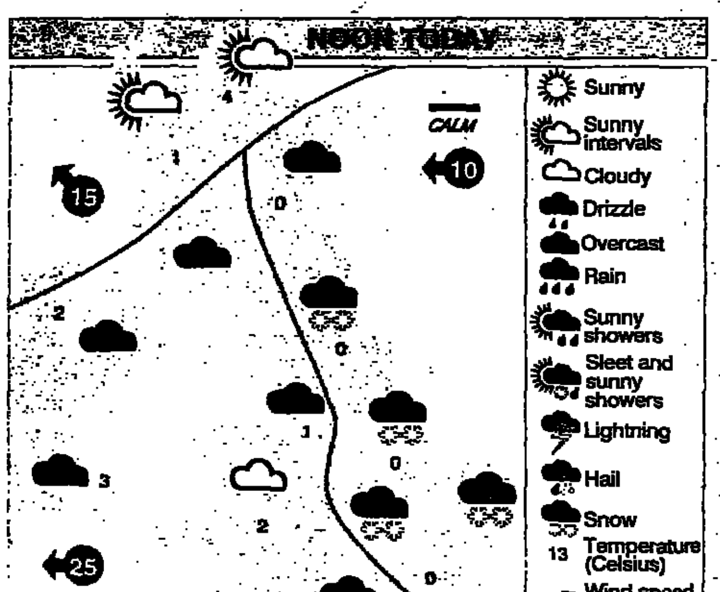
[illegible]

ABROAD

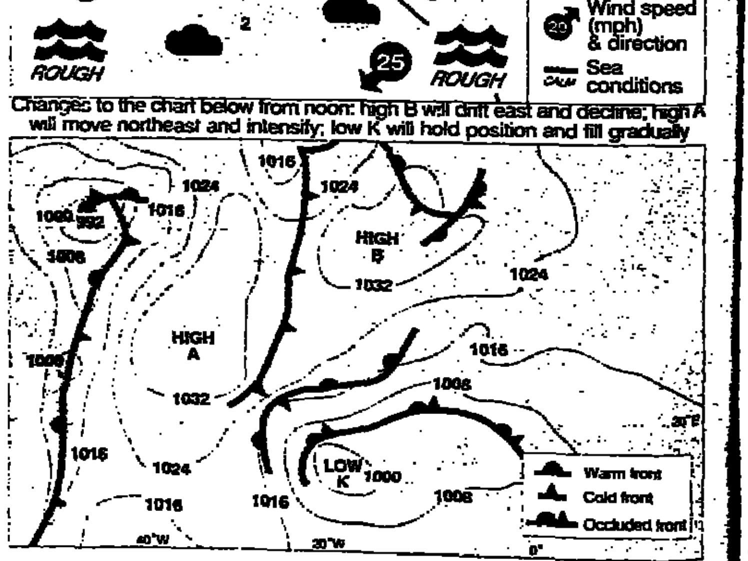
[illegible]

Temperatures at midday local time. [illegible]

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high B will drift east and decline; high A will move northeast and intensify; low K will hold position and fill gradually



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.59	6.0	8.52	6.0
Aberdeen	8.33	3.5	9.03	3.5
Avonmouth	0.58	10.3	1.52	10.1
Belfast	6.05	3.0	6.37	3.0
Cardiff	1.07	9.4	1.49	9.4
Devonport			12.18	4.3
Dover	5.33	5.5	6.16	5.3
Dublin (N Wall)	6.47	3.4	7.10	3.4
Falmouth			12.09	4.1
Greenock	6.40	3.0	7.12	2.9
Harwich	6.00	3.3	6.44	3.1
Holyhead	5.20	4.4	5.50	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	0.25	6.2	1.17	5.9
Ilfracombe	0.03	7.1	12.49	7.0
King's Lynn	0.57	5.2	1.38	5.1

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	9.37	4.4	10.09	4.4
Liverpool	5.49	7.4	6.27	7.4
Lowestoft	4.13	2.1	5.08	2.1
Margate	6.26	4.0	7.11	3.8
Milford Haven	0.29	5.4	1.09	5.4
Newquay			12.13	5.2
Oban			1.23	2.9
Penzance	11.31	4.3		
Portland	0.12	1.4	12.36	1.3
Portsmouth	5.44	4.0	6.25	3.7
Shoreham	5.39	5.0	6.13	4.7
Southampton	5.21	3.8	5.58	3.6
Swansea	0.26	7.3	7.15	3.2
Tees	10.48	4.2	11.10	4.3
Walton-on-Naze	6.01	3.4	6.46	3.3

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هكذا من الأصل.

TENNIS

23 Becker rolls back the years with timely victory

ATHLETICS

27 Buckfield raises high hopes for promise of youth

GOLF

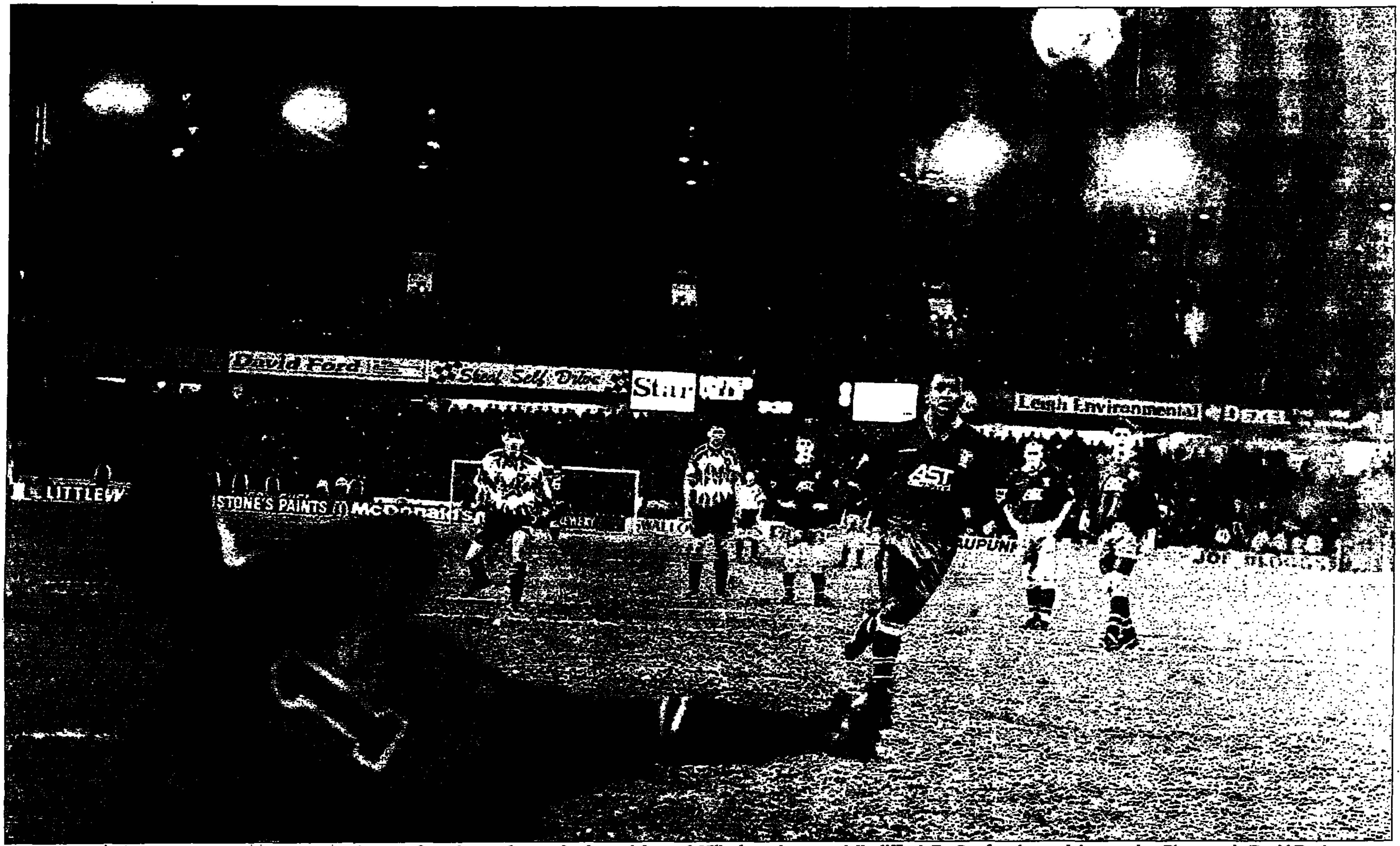
28 Extra effort brings Woosnam opening credit

RUGBY UNION

30 England recall Rodber for Wales game

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996



Yorke leaves Kelly, the United goalkeeper, well beaten from the penalty spot for the goal that took Villa through a potentially difficult FA Cup fourth-round tie yesterday. Photograph: David Davies

Penalty dispute dismissed as Villa reach FA Cup fifth round

Yorke spots United's weakness

Sheffield United 0
Aston Villa 1

BY DAVID MILLER

THOSE Bramall Lane regulars who went home moaning "cheat" in denigration of the Aston Villa centre forward, Savo Milosevic, do not understand the game. If they do, they should study a replay of *the unquestionable penalty*, given for a foul on Milosevic, that deservedly defeated Sheffield United in the FA Cup fourth round yesterday.

Shortly after the final whistle, which came with Howard Kendall's new team pressing desperately for an equalising goal, Villa's victory was roughly rewarded with their eighth consecutive away draw, at Ipswich Town or Walsall. Such is their collective competence at present that they should clear either hurdle without too much anxiety.

Sheffield United could hardly complain, with any conviction, about the outcome of a tie that Villa dominated for some 70 of the 90 minutes. Had the score been 3-0 it would have better reflected the run of the play. Instead of deluding themselves about the validity of the penalty, United's followers should be wondering how this side so short of fire-power up front will manage to stay in *the* Endsleigh Insurance League first division. On this [illegible] on the belligerent determination of Ward to bludgeon Villa into error, with his persistent runs from midfield.

A few minutes from time he so nearly succeeded, but having driven through Villa's retreating ranks on the left, his sharp low cross into the goalmouth was smothered in a flash by the diving Bosnich, and the threat was gone.

The penalty that decided the *outcome* came on the hour, and was additionally controversial for the manner in which Yorke took the kick. We have seen such casual feint to send the goalkeeper diving, followed by a simple shot into the middle of the net, performed by only a few: long ago by Pelé, or his Santos colleague, Coutinho, or by an almost similar soft touch by Danny Blanchflower.

The incident arose when Wright, such a dapper performer in his distribution from the left side of the Villa midfield, sent the ball through to Johnson. Making ground, Johnson saw Milosevic breaking clear and fed him the ball.

As the Yugoslav, whose close ball-control tormented the United defenders for so much of the game, entered the penalty area, he was chopped from his left side by Short, the Sheffield United right back. The illegal challenge knocked Milosevic's left thigh, and for the next few strides he was totally off-balance. *By the time* he came in conflict with

The referee, supported by the linesman, rightly pointed to the penalty spot, though afterwards he confirmed he had given the decision for the second collision, not the first. Kelly, who was booked, was *furious and Short conceded* that he was probably to blame. "Alan [Kelly] never touched him," Short said. "Milosevic went into the area, I tried to get across and if there was a foul it was by me. He stumbled when he could have gone down but kept going. Then Alan came out and he just went over him. The ball *had already long gone over the* line for a goal kick.

The first illegal tackle was the one that mattered. Both the home team and the crowd, convincing themselves that Milosevic had dived, protested in vain, the crowd loudly chanting "cheat". So easily in today's society do people come to believe that they have been *wrongly denied*.

After the brouhaha of protest, Yorke kept his nerve and coolly sent Kelly in pursuit of a mirage. Snowballs rained down on the unfortunate Milosevic.

Before and afterwards there had not been much doubt about which team ought to win. It had been 25 minutes at the start before United came close to threatening Bosnich, *Villa being camped almost* permanently in their opponent's half of the field but unable to finish with accuracy.

Home retaliation arrived, typically, from Ward. Early on *he had been playing man-for-man* on the elusive Johnson, but now he switched to a freer midfield role, and immediately this almost gave Sheffield the lead.

A powerful run on the right carried Ward past two men and his eventual cross was deflected for a corner. The dogged Patterson, who in midfield is a sort of poor man's Batty, swung across a low kick to the near post. Nilsen cleverly back-heeled, but the danger was hacked clear.

Milosevic had already made and missed a couple of chances for himself and, ten minutes before half-time, he floated a tormenting cross [illegible]dered. Immediately, at the other end, United had their best chance of the match. From a free kick by Nilsen, Tuttle on the far post headed square and Hutchison's downward header was bound *for the net. Bosnich flung* himself to the left and scooped the ball away one-handed a foot inside the post.

Introducing Veart, the *match-winner against* Arsenal, in place of Hutchison for the second half, United briefly threatened, but soon Townsend, Draper and Johnson were masters again in midfield, so that the penalty was no more than they might have expected. Thereafter, they could have extended their lead until, in the last ten minutes, they became edgy and allowed United to counter-attack. But it was all in vain.

Brian Little, the manager, has in a year turned Villa into a side capable of challenging for any domestic trophy, and they have now won 11 of their past 16 matches. For Kendall, whatever his belief in coherent football, the next three months are going to be a long uphill struggle for survival.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — C Short, D Hodgson, D Tuttle, R Nilsen — M Ward, M Patterson, G Cowans (sub: G

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND DRAW

[illegible] to be played on [illegible]

[illegible] Town [illegible]	v	Charlton Athletic Brentford [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]	v	[illegible] [illegible] Replay Wed Feb 7
Bolton Wanderers v Leeds Utd Tue Feb 6		Port Vale Replay Wed Feb 7
Ipswich Town v Walsall Tue Feb 6	v	Aston Villa
Swindon Town Oldham Athletic Wed Feb 7	v	[illegible]
Manchester Utd	v	[illegible]
Huddersfield Town [illegible] Utd	v	[illegible]

United goal for City 24
Minnows fare well 24
Vulnerable champions 25
Reading's willing helper ... 25

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Hewitt and McMillan a durable double act

DAVID POWELL

TV ACTION REPLAY

Depending on your age, you may consider John McEnroe and Peter Fleming to be the finest men's doubles pair you have seen play tennis. In that case, perhaps you are too young to have seen Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan. Which of these wonderful pairs was the better combination is an arguable point, but Hewitt and McMillan won more tournaments.

They broke up in 1980, when Hewitt retired, having played in harness for 14 years, winning three Wimbledon doubles championships and scores of others. Since then, they have seen little of each other, although they have appeared occasionally in Masters tournaments. Observers used to think that they did not get on. Listen to Hewitt: "We have two legs, two arms and one head, and that is about the complete similarity." Not quite. Two legs, two arms, one head, and a job with Eurosport.

For the past fortnight, Hewitt and McMillan have been with Simon Reed — Oliver's brother — and David Mercer, bringing daily coverage of the Australian Open. McMillan is best known for his work with Radio 5, but Hewitt's voice is new to Great Britain. McMillan worked with Sky last year before Eurosport took over the contract to become the new European home of the men's Tour. For the next four years, it will televise the ATP world championship, the Super 9 series and the ATP world team championship, as well as the Australian, French and Wimbledon grand-slam tournaments. Queen's too. More than 800 hours in a year, mostly live or first broadcast.

Hewitt is on what he describes as "a trial period". Already he is a set up. He demonstrated a cheerful wit during the Australian Open and, if his inside knowledge of the players and tactical perception are less sharp than McMillan's, he is no less forthright in his criticism. Television today expects nothing less.

When Andre Agassi gave the impression of lacking commitment in his semi-final defeat by Michael Chang, McMillan said he was "lucky to get away with applause when he left the court ... I thought he deserved a bit of bird". Rubbishing Agassi may not be the popular thing to do, but when Hewitt came on later to cover the Boris Becker-Mark Woodforde semi-final, he described Agassi's match as "a disgrace ... I was surprised at the warm reception he got".

Hewitt told me: "Some players do not like my interpretation of what I have seen, but we must not consider the persons sitting in the armchair as blind idiots." Reed, who head-hunted him, said: "He was the kind of guy I wanted. He calls a spade a spade."

Reed says McMillan is "the best analyst, bar none", and it is hard to disagree. When Seles is described as "the double-handed goddess", who are we to argue? Seles was the first double-hander on both sides to win a grand-slam singles. McMillan was the first in doubles. His white hat was his trademark, but he never made a penny from wearing it. Dunn and Co, where he bought his hats, rejected his request for sponsorship.

"I had to pay for my caps throughout my career," he said. Who better than he, then, to recognise modern professionalism at work? When Chanda Rubin found a peaked hat for her unexpected semi-final appearance against Seles, McMillan said: "Do you think she has got a new cap endorsement suddenly?"

On his relationship with McMillan, Hewitt said: "A lot of players used to think we disliked each other because we were not in the habit of talking on a tennis court. That is the furthest thing from the truth. We are just so different. I like to play golf, snow ski, water ski and fly aeroplanes. Frew does arty things."

In their first tournament with Eurosport, Hewitt and McMillan worked together, but apart. The teams were Mercer and McMillan, Mercer and Hewitt; Reed and Hewitt, Reed and McMillan. Hewitt and McMillan together on one match was "an idea", Reed said. "They get on quite well, but at a distance." And a commentary box is smaller than a tennis court.

British fencers foiled by French in cup

FRANCE dominated the fiftieth Corble Cup sabre international at the Guildford Spectrum centre on Saturday, despite a spirited challenge by British fencers, led by James Williams and Kirk Zavieh, who both reached the last four. Ian Williams, the British No 1, was eliminated by James Williams in the round of the last 16 and finished tenth. French fencers took five of the top eight places, with Guilliane Galvez first and Antoine Williame second.

The strong French entry included the form Olympic silver medal-winner, Phillipe Delraieu, in his last international season. Delraieu conceded only two hits in the first round but went out in the quarter-finals to Zavieh, 15-11. Zavieh lost to Galvez in the semi-finals, 15-9 while the other semi-final saw Williame defeat Williams 15-11.

Quentin Berriman won the men's title at the British Epée Championships at RAF Cosford on Saturday. The women's title went to Sheila Pearce. Through the Turnstile, page 27

Austrians dominate

SKIING: Mario Reiter led an Austrian clean-sweep of the World Cup slalom in Sestriere, Italy, on Saturday. Leading after the first leg, Reiter finished with a time of 1min 58.79sec, with his compatriot, Thomas Sykora, 0.16sec behind in second place and Thomas Stangassinger third.

Claudia Riegler, 19, who was born in Austria, gave New Zealand only its second World Cup victory when she won the women's slalom in Serre-Chevalier, France, yesterday. Third after the first run, Riegler stormed down the Olympique Luc Alphand course to finish with a combined time of 1min 31.27sec. Karin Roten, of Switzerland, was second, with a time of 1min 31.56sec, and Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, third in 1min 31.79sec.

Slatter secures gold

SWIMMING: Helen Slatter, right, of Great Britain, collected two medals on the second day of the World Cup meeting in Espoo, Finland, yesterday. She won the 200 metres butterfly in 2min 14.78sec, and was third behind Elli Overton, of Australia, and Hana Cerna, of the Czech Republic, in the 400 metres individual medley. Compatriot Sarah Price took bronze in the 100 metres backstroke.

Davison goes one better

GOLF: Chris Davison, of Great Britain, returned a third-round 70 to move within six shots of Wayne Westner, the leader, at the South African Masters in Port Edward. Davison, with a three-round total of 213, is now the leading European after David Higgins, of Ireland, recorded a disappointing 74 for a total of 214. Westner took the outright lead by two shots from the English-born Chris Williams and Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, courtesy of a two-under-par 70. His aggregate 207 leaves him on nine under par.

Pair force way to final

REAL TENNIS: The world's No 1 doubles pairing, Chris Bray and Mike Gooding of Britain, reached the final of the US Open Real Tennis Doubles Championship with victory over Ruaraidh Gunn and Paul Tabley by three sets to two. Tabley started strongly, well backed up by the inexperienced Gunn, but Bray and Gooding kept their nerve, finally clinching a see-saw match with a string of winning forces from Gooding and accurate serves from Bray which kept their opponents under constant pressure.

Westlecot clinch victory

BOWLS: A 30-8 win for a home rink skipped by Howard Pryse over an Erdington Court quartet skipped by England trialist Stuart Thomas carried Westlecot to a 75-70 victory at Swindon and a place in the last 16 of the National Mixed Inter-Club Indoor Championship yesterday. Pryse's winning margin more than covered defeats on the other three rinks. Stonyhill's Gail Fitzgerald, the only woman to skip in the zone finals, was unsuccessful. Her rink lost 28-6 at Tilbury to Graham Pereira's as Tilbury won 91-68.

Victory for Akinwande

BOXING: Henry Akinwande, right, of Great Britain, clinched a first-round victory over Brian Sargent, of the United States, in a heavyweight bout in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday. Akinwande twice knocked Sargent down before the contest was stopped. Sargent was a replacement for Oliver McCall, the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, who withdrew on Thursday.

Ball is just off target

SHOOTING: Nigel Ball, the Fleet Air Arm chief petty officer in the London and Middlesex Rifle Association touring team, just failed to win the Tasmanian Queen's prize in Hobart. Against some of Australia's top competitors, Ball finished on 386 points, level with Andrew Halstead, of New South Wales, who won because 21 of his shots hit the central V-ring compared with 25 for Ball. Ball received the Vic Willcox Trophy for the highest score by a serviceman.

Giants call on Moore to deliver timely win

By Nicholas Harling

IF JAY GOLDBERG had had his wish, an addition to Saturday's long list of sporting casualties would have been Manchester Giants' Budweiser League basketball fixture at Thames Valley Tigers. In hindsight, the Giants' new managing director must have been relieved that his early-morning telephone appeals to the league and the host club were not successful.

The risk to his players on hazardous roads was, Goldberg argued, far too great. Yet not only did the Giants safely complete their journey to and from Bracknell, but they just negotiated the Tigers, too, making up arrears of 19 points to gain a dramatic 73-72 win with a basket from Joel Moore three seconds from the end.

Moore, like Goldberg, had spent most of the evening wishing he were back in Manchester. As the Giants slipped ever further behind to points accumulated for the Tigers by Peter Scantlebury, Cory Cole and Tony Holley, Moore slumped on his team's bench after engaging in heated arguments with his coach, Mike Hanks, who was only too happy to sit him out.

"All I wanted was for the guys to play with a bit more fire," Moore explained afterwards. "They were rolling over and dying. I got a little annoyed at Mike. I probably said something a little harsh and he benched me. When we were 19 points down, I suppose he thought, 'Well I might as well put Joel back on'."

It was during a time-out midway through the third quarter, with the Giants 52-33 down, that Hanks made a wise choice. Mark Robinson and Kevin St Kitts carried on scoring the bulk of their points, but Moore was to come up with crucial baskets.

With a three-pointer, he shot the Giants ahead at 69-68, but, after two free throws and a jump shot from Cole had put the Tigers three points to the good, Panjie Grainger's basket gave the Giants hope 37 seconds from the end. Moore subsequently dispossessed Holley to go down court and sink the decisive basket.

Like the Giants, two of Saturday's other winners had to make up deficits. Lakeith Humphrey's 13 points in the final quarter for Derby Storm gave them a 92-78 win over Doncaster Panthers, who had led by ten points.

Worthing Bears had trailed Leicester City Riders until 31 points from their player-coach, Colin Irish, sped them towards an 87-81 win. However, Birmingham Bullets nearly always had the edge over Hemel Hempstead Royals, finally winning 87-71 to repeat their midweek cup success on the same court.

Britain finish tournament unbeaten with defeat of Belgium

Giles crowns qualified success

Great Britain 2
Belgium 0

From Sydney Friskin in Barcelona

TWO goals by Calum Giles from short corners sealed victory over Belgium and enabled Great Britain to finish third in the Olympic qualifying hockey tournament here yesterday. They had secured their place at the Atlanta Games the previous day with a 3-2 win over Malaysia.

In the draw made after the tournament, Britain were placed with Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Holland and South Africa in pool B. Argentina, Germany, India, Pakistan, Spain and United States were drawn in pool A.

Malaysia's qualification sparked controversy. They gained the fifth and final place after a goalless draw with India, who lost their chance of winning the tournament, at the expense of Canada, who crushed Belorussia 7-1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	7	5	1	1	27	13	11
India	7	4	3	0	15	7	11
Great Britain	7	3	4	0	17	11	10
Spain	7	3	3	1	15	7	9
Malaysia	7	3	1	3	9	11	7
Canada	7	2	2	3	17	16	6
Belgium	7	1	0	6	12	25	2
Belorussia	7	0	0	7	4	25	0

The leisurely pace of the Malaysia match led to slow handclapping in the stands. Shiaz Virjee, the Canada coach, obviously bitter at the outcome, called for an inquiry by the International Hockey Federation. "They should prove that they are in charge of this game," he said.

There was no slackening of effort on Britain's part as they set out yesterday determined to maintain their unbeaten record in the competition. Britain began at their usual lively pace but the Belgians, with a point to prove after winning only one of their six matches, offered a spirited challenge.

Both Laslett and Mayer were given a well-earned rest, allowing the two younger players, Hall and Hoskin, to show their paces in the front line. Mayer, however, came on as a substitute in the closing minutes. The Belgians, who lost their outside right, Berger, through injury soon after Mayer's arrival, had earlier had injury problems when Van Oost, their goalkeeper, had to go off a minute after half-time.

Belgium defended stubbornly and tackled strongly in the first half, but Britain should still have taken a three-goal lead into the break. In the sixteenth minute, Shaw set up the first chance, for Hall, whose shot from the right of the circle flew past the far post.

More opportunities for Britain slipped away, with Hoskin unable to make contact with Shaw's back-pass in the 22nd minute and Nick Thompson missing the target from Shaw's cross-pass almost on half-time.

In the first minute of the second half, Dewamme, a Belgium substitute, ran into the circle at speed, but was dispossessed. Britain were soon back on the attack again and a centre from the right by Hall put Hoskin in possession on the left of the circle. His shot was saved by Vuylstekek, the Belgium substitute goalkeeper, who committed an infringement while attempting to clear. The outcome was a short corner which Giles converted with some help from Nick Thompson.

After Hoskin had just missed the target in the 47th minute, Belgium laid seige to the Britain goal but could not get near enough to score. In the 58th minute, Britain earned another short corner after Nick Thompson had been obstructed and Giles was on target for his eighth goal of the tournament.

On Saturday, Britain fought off a spirited challenge by Malaysia. A goal for Britain in the third minute by Robert Thompson was answered 11 minutes later by Noor Saiful, the Malaysia outside right, who converted a short corner.

The lead for Britain was restored by Giles, who converted a short corner in the seventeenth minute, and Nick Thompson put them further ahead from another short corner, in the 29th minute. Nawawi's goal from a short corner eight minutes before the end put Malaysia back in the game.

GREAT BRITAIN: D Luckes (East Grinstead); J Wyatt (Reading), S Singh (Southgate), G Fordham (Hounslow), K Takher (Cannock), S Hazlitt (Hounslow), D Hall (Guildford), J Shaw (Southgate), R Thompson (Hounslow, captain), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians), H Hoskin (Reading). Subs used: C Giles (Havant), C Mayer (Cannock).

BELGIUM: M van Oost; P Vanhemelen, V van Diest, M Coudron (captain), T Renaer, J Renaer, J Beunen, J Willems, P Pitie, F Berger, M Beunen, M Kinnen. Subs used: G Dewamme, B Vuylstekek.

Umpires: P von Reth (Holland) and R St Rose (Trinidad and Tobago)

CESAR RANGEL

Giles, centre, is congratulated by Takher, left, and Nick Thompson after scoring against Belgium yesterday

Reid realises England dream

By Alix Ramsay

TWO saves from Carolyn Reid, of Hightown, helped England to achieve what many had thought was an impossible dream — victory over Germany in the final of the women's European indoor hockey championships in Glasgow yesterday.

For so long the dominant force in indoor hockey, Germany were pushed, harried and held to a 2-2 draw at full time, and then had to face a penalty shoot-out.

Even at that stage, few would have put money on England taking the honours as their rivals are not known for their frailty when the chips are down. But, even in the less-than-friendly atmosphere of the Kelvin Hall, where the Scottish crowd was cheering every German move, this seemed to be England's day.

From the moment Suxdorf saw her first shot saved by Reid, the Germans were playing catch-up. Back on level terms at 3-3 when Wright could only hit the post, luck sided with England when Chandler's shot was touched by Schmidt, but trickled in around the goalkeeper's stick. Another save from Reid to keep out Merabet, and England had won.

Since the competition started in 1974, no team had beaten Germany until this weekend. France proved that the champions were mortal by winning 1-0 in the group matches, but the Germans then moved into top gear.

However, England had saved their best for the end, beating Scotland 5-4 in the semi-finals yesterday morning before taking on the champions.

In the final, England packed their defence and closed the Germans down at every opportunity. However, they were caught out by a Von Livonius penalty corner before equalising through Crook from a similar set-piece.

England were caught again from a corner by Kauschke in the second half but Wright equalised from a corner shot with seven minutes left.

Panthers too hot to handle

By Norman de Mesquita

IT IS ironic that snow and ice can disrupt ice hockey, but that was the case on Saturday, when only two of the four scheduled British League premier division matches could be played.

The eagerly awaited meeting between Sheffield and Cardiff was one of the casualties, postponed because of problems in gaining access to the Arena.

The two games that were played brought home wins for Nottingham Panthers and Fife Flyers. The Panthers beat Durham Wasps 8-3 with Neil Morgan involved in five of their goals. They led 3-1 at the end of the first period, and the Wasps could never get close enough to worry the home side. Durham's chances were not helped by a lack of discipline, which brought too many penalties.

The Flyers beat Basingstoke Bison 6-2 with their player-coach, Mark Morrison, and their latest import, Kevin St Jacques, each netting three goals. The first period was goalless, and each side scored once in the second, but two goals in 35 seconds in the first minute of the final period set up Fife's win.

Manchester Storm, with a 12-3 away win over Chelmsford Chieftains, stretched their lead over the idle Blackburn Hawks to eight points at the top of the first division, with no fewer than 14 players finding their way onto the score sheet.

Principal interest in this division is the battle for promotion play-off places, and Guildford Flames improved their chances of qualifying with a hard-fought 5-4 win over Bracknell Bees. It enabled them to move into sixth place (the last play-off spot) ahead of the out-of-form Telford Tigers, who were beaten for the ninth time in ten games, an embarrassing 7-1 loss to Paisley Pirates.

Peterborough Pirates did well to get to Edinburgh for their fixture with Murrayfield Royals, but they were not rewarded for their achievement, going down 6-3. It was only the fourth win of the season for the Royals, but it did take them off the bottom, a point ahead of Billingham Bombers.

Tobin produces power to extend advantage

MICHAEL TOBIN, of the United States, and Irma Heeren, of Holland, had to be at their best to achieve their victories during round nine of the Saucony Powerman triathlon series in Lanzarote (Ian Sweet writes).

Tobin's second successive win at Lanzarote extended his lead in the Powerman rankings. For Heeren, the 1994 world duathlon champion, beginning 1996 with a victory was the tonic she needed after a disappointing season last year.

John Taylor, of England, set a demanding pace throughout the opening 10km run of the men's event and led the field on the 60km bike ride. But Tobin then took control and, with an advantage of more than two minutes, the final run was a formality; although the Italian, Maurizio Medri, who finished second, and Olivier Bernard, of Switzerland, closed the gap they could not prevent Tobin from taking his second Powerman Lanzarote title in 2hr 42min 05sec.

The women's race was more competitive and Fiona Lothian, of Scotland, established a slender lead on the bike. It was not until the long climb on the return leg that she was caught by Susanne Nedergaard, of Denmark, whose chain then came off allowing Lothian and Heeren to pass her. However, Nedergaard regrouped before Heeren made a decisive move to win in 3hr 5min 20sec.

Feats of Clay lift Manchester

By Peter Bryan

JON CLAY, resting at home in Leeds on Saturday evening after two hours of tobogganing and happy to settle down and watch television, took a telephone call that had him up and out and on his way immediately to the National Cycling Centre, 60 miles away.

The Manchester team, competing in the Five Cities track super league, were two men short. Clay, national champion on both road and track, was in demand to fill one of the vacancies in a bid to regain the overall lead from London.

Within the hour Clay was at the track side and ready to go into action in a series that has pulled encouraging crowds to watch the weekly go-all-the-way racing. Two hours later, he had gained maximum points for Manchester, winning the devil-take-the-hindmost, sharing in the squad's 3,000 metres team pursuit victory and then winning the night's eight kilometres scratch race finale, in which his colleagues Chris Newton and Phil West followed him over the line.

His team, winners on the night ahead of Edinburgh and Birmingham, also took the overall lead to go into next Saturday's final round of five with 94 points to London's 87 points. Edinburgh are third with 74 points.

Belgium dominated the fourth and final round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series at Northallerton yesterday when Peter Willemsens finished the 16 miles race 1min 46sec clear of Pascal van Riet, the 1995 winner, and 2mins 47sec ahead of Britain's best, Tim Gould. The previous week's cold spell had turned to a slow thaw and instead of icy conditions riders were often bogged down in mud.

David Baker, Britain's Olympic selection for the mountain bike eventin Atlanta, returned to competition after undergoing an operation on his right shoulder, to finish sixth.

Barrie Clarke (Raleigh) who has led the series from the start, was overall Trophy winner with Nick Craig second and Gould third.

Results, page 29

هكذا من الأصل

Chang overpowered in Melbourne final as German recaptures best form

Becker turns back his Australian clock

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

Becker's determination enables him to reach a wide forehand during his four-set destruction of Chang in Melbourne yesterday. Photograph: Trevor Collens

AT THE comparatively advanced age of 28, and in the place where he least expected it to happen, Boris Becker has re-established his career. Turning full circle, he concluded half a decade without a grand-slam title by repeating his last victory, at the Australian Open.

Apart from an irrelevant third set, in which he admitted to losing concentration, he assumed complete control of the final yesterday. As though in the role of a daunting schoolyard bully, he remained dispassionate as he subjected Michael Chang, six inches the shorter, to a prolonged and pitiless beating.

Maintaining the momentum that he had built since the third round — Mark Woodforde had described his experience against Becker in the semi-finals as akin to "facing a bulldozer" — he immediately flattened an opponent who had arrived without dropping a set. The flawless record was obliterated within half an hour.

Becker, looming imperiously at the net whenever he could, executed his predictably aggressive strategy so perfectly that he held two points for a 5-0 lead. Chang was startled by the initial impatient onslaught and felt for the rest of the afternoon that he was "back on his heels".

He was forever on the balls of his feet, too. Whether with precise and firm volleys or strokes lashed from the baseline, Becker kept him scuttling from side to side, and from deep in the shadows at the back of the court to the sunlit net, before Chang submitted 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Chang won applause for his characteristically energetic retrieving, but rarely could he breathe easily. His service was 23 times on the point of being broken and, other than equalling Becker for aces (they were each credited with 11), he could not match the German in any aspect of the game.

Becker, in spite of his imposing authority, was surprised to win again at Flinders Park. "I couldn't seem to get past the first hurdle here," he said. "And it almost happened again."

Greg Rusedski, 2-1 up in sets, held two points to lead him 3-1 in the fourth set. Becker was also two sets down to Thomas Johansson in the next round. "I thought I'd had enough practice by then," he said. Virtually irresistible thereafter, he reflected that he had been driven by the fire in his belly and controlled by the ice in his veins.

Once he had achieved his lifelong ambition to become the No 1, when he became the champion here in 1991, he lost impetus. Two years ago, he changed his manager, his home and gained a wife, Barbara, who gave him a purpose to revive his stagnating career. She implored him to "do it one more time for me because I've never seen you as a grand-slam winner".

"I told her that I was trying my heart out but that it's not that easy," Becker said. Yet he redesigned his training programme and refined his game.

He asserts, justifiably, that he is a more complete player now than in the days when he was crowned at Wimbledon (in 1985, 1986 and 1989) and at the United States Open (also in 1989). "I'm using the whole court, not half of it," he said, "so I'm not so one-dimensional."

The ageing process has also tempered his occasionally fretful mind. "Although you are more nervous because you know that you haven't got another ten years, you keep cool because you realise it's only a game. I have been calmer each round here and today I was at my calmest."

Intoxicated by his triumph, he can foresee his resurgence developing and stretching ahead. "I'm now in the autumn of my career," he said, "but I believe I have a couple of big ones left in me, and, as long as I'm not embarrassing myself in shorts, I'm going to go for it.

"The grand slam [winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the United States Open in the same calendar year] has been a dream of mine and I'm going to give it a try. My confidence level will be so much higher going into the French Open because I've proved to myself that I can do it again."

His words will sprinkle additional spice across Roland Garros. In common with Andre Agassi, newly elevated to No 1, Pete Sampras, relegated to No 3, and Stefan Edberg, who will make his last appearance there, the French Open is the one title Becker requires to complete his personal set.

Leading article, page 17

Wilander's lawyers take drug claim to High Court

BY JOHN GOODBODY
AND STUART JONES

LAWYERS for Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek are said to have issued proceedings in the High Court against the international tennis authorities over allegations that the two players took cocaine.

Yesterday, the *News of the World* claimed that the players had tested positive for the social drug, which can also improve performances, at the French Open championship in Paris last June.

Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), said in Melbourne yesterday: "I cannot even confirm there have been any positive tests." However, he added: "If there were no positive tests, the lawyers would not be talking to anyone would they?"

Wilander, of Sweden, the winner of seven grand slam titles, and Novacek, of the Czech Republic, ranked No 8 in the world in 1991 and a semi-finalist in the 1994 US Open, withdrew from the Australian Open earlier this month citing injuries.

The newspaper quoted lawyers for the pair, who form a doubles partnership, as saying: "On behalf of our clients, we categorically deny the allegation. We have lie detector evidence proving our clients are telling the truth."

They said that they had come to London with their clients and witnesses for an ITF hearing last week "to prove our clients' innocence. The ITF then cancelled a hearing at 11.55pm the night before the hearing was to begin. As a result, we are issuing proceedings against the ITF in the High Court in London next week."

About 1,000 drug tests are conducted on leading tennis players every year and Jeremy Bates, the former Britain player, said yesterday that he had undergone at least seven in 1995. All were classified negative. Bates said: "I cannot believe that anybody will be doing it [taking drugs] to enhance their performance."

Vitas Gerualitis, the former United States player who died in 1992, admitted that he had used the drug for recreational purposes, and Jennifer Capriati, the 1992 Olympic champion, was arrested in May 1994 for possessing marijuana.

In tennis, cocaine is a class two prohibited substance, and a positive test can lead to a player being suspended for three months for the first offence, one year for the second and banned permanently for a third.

Dr David Cowan, the director of a London laboratory accredited by the International Olympic Committee, said: "There is no question that cocaine improves alertness."

Seles struggles to control mind game

Seles is overcome by emotion at a press conference after her singles victory. Photograph: Steve Holland

FROM STUART JONES

SUPERFICIALLY, it seemed to be the same old story. Monica Seles, her tennis racket clutched in both hands while playing strokes on either flank, won the Australian Open, as she had done in 1991, 1992 and 1993, and preserved an enviable record at Flinders Park. In 28 matches there, Seles, now 22, has never been beaten.

Behind the triumphant façade, though, changes were evident. Her body, longer and broader, is more susceptible to stress, her mind is plainly still haunted by the traumatic memory of her stabbing in Hamburg 33 months ago and there are indications that the competition in the women's game is at last deepening.

In the past few months, Seles has been afflicted by injuries that have been working their way up her frame. She has damaged an ankle, a calf, a knee and her groin. After lifting weights in the first week of the championships, she discovered that she could barely lift her own arms.

The psychological scars, in spite of her prolonged recuperation, remain vivid. At a press conference filled with characteristic giggles, she was asked when she might consider returning to Germany to compete. The question provoked first an anguished response, then tears and finally a premature departure.

The emotional turmoil had been stirred initially by the realisation that her capacity to collect grand slam titles was undiminished.

Although the favourite in the absence through injury of Steffi Graf, she seemed to harbour more doubts than anyone else that she would finish the fortnight as the champion.

She prevailed because she retains the one quality that continues to set her and Graf apart from the rest. Of the past 33 grand slam championships, they have won, between them, all but seven, primarily through their conviction in moments of crisis. They consistently play the big points with firmer hands and cooler heads than their peers.

Seles withstood a grave threat in the semi-final when she was twice on the point of falling 1-5 behind to Chanda Rubin in the final set. She also confessed to being in potentially "deep, deep trouble" midway through the first set of the final against Anke Huber.

Both players had dug a trench along the baseline and, treating the ball with equal violence, countered each other's sound effects. Every blow was accompanied by either an explosive squeal from Huber or a full-throated roar from Seles. The top seed had been broken, to love, and was 2-3 down.

The next game was pivotal. It lasted a quarter of an hour, featuring nine deuces and six opportunities for Huber to extend her lead.

Once she had been defied, her own resistance crumbled and, although she was credited with hitting more winners overall, she claimed only two more games in going down down 6-4, 6-1.

The margin was deceptively wide and Huber, though yet to take a set off Seles in their seven matches, felt that she had forged "more chances than ever before". Two months ago, in the final of the Women's Tennis Association tour championship in New York, she stretched Graf to a fifth set.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, with three grand slam titles, Conchita Martinez, Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Pierce, with one each, are the only women still playing to have intruded upon the dominance of the leading pair in the past eight years but their challenge has been neither substantial nor consistent. It would be unrealistic to expect any of them to close the established gap.

However, a fresh group is emerging, as confirmed by the new rankings issued today. Huber has broken into the top five, Rubin into the top ten and Martina Hingis, 15, is within two places of being seeded at the next grand slam championship, the French Open.

These players, and Lindsay Davenport, who held a match point against Seles in Sydney on the eve of the championship, do not fear the joint No 1s. Physically, they can cope. Now they have to learn to reinforce their mental strength. They will not win until they genuinely believe that they can.

Edberg's winning exit

STEFAN EDBERG bade a suitable farewell to Flinders Park on Saturday, grasping another trophy (*Stuart Jones writes*). Twice the champion, and the most popular of foreigners, the Swede took the men's doubles championship, also for the second time.

In a final featuring the rarity of two unseeded pairs, Edberg and Petr Korda beat Sebastien Lareau and Alex O'Brien, 7-5, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

Martin Lee and James Trotman, of Great Britain, the Wimbledon champions and No 2 seeds, were beaten by the big-serving No 1 seeds, Daniele Bracciali, of Italy, and Jocelyn Robichaud, of Canada, 6-2, 6-4 in the boys doubles final on Saturday.

Mark Woodforde, of Australia, and Larisa Neiland beat Luke Jensen and Nicole Arendt 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 for the mixed doubles title.

Dramatic sixth game determines the final plot

DAVID MILLER

Tennis Commentary

It was difficult to guess last week who had less chance in their duels against respective ice-maidens: Sir Rocco Forte against Mercury Asset Management's redoubtable Carol Galley, or young Anke Huber against Monica Seles. Each triumphant woman has the competitive expression, that sharp line of mouth and jaw, of Clint Eastwood at his *meanest*.

The return of Seles to regain the Australian Open title carries inestimable importance for women's tennis. She is an attacking player from the baseline, equivalent within the women's game to Borg or Agassi at their peaks, and the margin for error *which she at times allowed* herself at Flinders Park was awesome. The spectacle of Seles against Graf, fully fit, should be one of the sporting highlights of 1996.

Yet spare a thought for Huber, the imminent German successor to Graf. Never mind the straight-sets defeat, this was a riveting final, made by the quality of the loser as much as the winner. While Seles may be unremittingly hard, Huber, even if she did occasionally stamp her foot in exasperation, has the equanimity of Chris Evert.

The sixth game of the first set, lasting 14 minutes, was a self-contained drama almost equivalent to the epic game between Graf and Sánchez Vicario in the Wimbledon final last year. The winner would assuredly be the winner. And so it proved.

Huber, two years Seles's junior, was as bold in the angle of her drives as her opponent and unquestionably had the Yugoslav-American on edge in those early games, sometimes forcing Seles so wide she was obliged to play a one-handed, stretching forehand. Had one of those game points gone Huber's way, to give her a 4-2 lead, one might just have been hailing a new winner of a grand slam event. Seles would admit afterwards that it had been "a lucky first set".

Huber's clear blue eyes carry that uncomplicated confidence of youth. You can sense the degree to which she is self-aware. Not for her the Latin inner complexities that occasionally gnaw at those Spanish champions, Martinez and Sánchez Vicario. Nor, you sense, will Huber throw away grand slam titles, like Novotna, because she cannot cope with the occasion.

She has a natural, relaxed charm. "I'll come back, and be better," she promised the enthusiastic crowd. Yet, for the moment, Seles remains formidable, even if the shadow of her Hamburg stabbing still haunts her soul. The mental scar of that experience, and any reminder of it, even conversationally, can still precipitate tears, as happened afterwards.

That apart, Seles, 22, still presents the contrast in character on and off court that was there when she emerged as a precocious teenager six years ago in Paris. It is hard to reconcile the uncompromising figure punching the ball as venomously as Tyson with the giggling, breathless babble of words that flow from the laughing victor. How the spectators love the way she so easily communicates with them when it is all over, someone who can so obviously enjoy the fun of what a few moments before had seemed so ferociously tough.

If only she did not have to accompany every shot with the gasping, double grunt that mars the spectator's pleasure afforded by her technique. For a century, the lungs of tennis players have coped mostly silently with the exertions of the game and there seems no need for this vocal punctuation.

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Manchester savours FA Cup draw

Prospect of derby gives extra incentive to City

By John Goodbody

MANCHESTER United got a spicy reward for their 3-0 victory away to Reading on Saturday when the convoluted draw for the FA Cup fifth round was made in London yesterday.

United, one of only two clubs definitely through from a fourth round so badly affected by the weather, got a home tie against the winners of the tie between Coventry City and Manchester City. The prospect of a match at Old Trafford against United, beaten finalists last season, will give even greater incentive for their neighbours when they travel to Highfield Road for the rearranged tie on February 7.

United are bidding to reach the final for the third successive year. They have already played in a record 13 finals, winning eight of them, a feat which only Tottenham Hotspur have equalled.

The Manchester neighbours have met on only four previous occasions in the FA Cup, with two wins apiece. United have been dominant recently, winning the last meeting, in January 1987, when Norman Whiteside's solitary goal was decisive in a third-round tie.

Before that, the United assistant manager, Brian Kidd, scored twice as United triumphed 3-0 in a fourth-round tie in 1970. City's two victories came in 1955, when Don Revie was a scorer in a 2-0 win, and 1926, when City won a semi-final 3-0.

Steve Bruce, the United captain, said: "It is a great draw. Thank goodness we are at home. If City beat Coventry, then it would be a really exciting tie because a derby is the most passionate occasion of the season."

Keith Curle, the Manchester City captain, urged caution as his side tried to focus on the rearranged fixture with Coventry. "There is no point getting carried away because we have a very difficult tie still to come," Curle said.

"Mind you, it is not a bad tie if we do get through. I could not believe it when I heard the draw. I had to double-check. It is just our luck that it is away from home, but if we can beat Coventry then we will give it everything."

FA CUP

Manchester City have not beaten their more illustrious rivals in any competition since a 5-1 league win at Maine Road in September 1989. Despite United's form, William Hill only has them as second favourites for the trophy, at 7-2. Liverpool, who have still to negotiate their away tie at Shrewsbury Town if they are to be at home to Charlton Athletic or Brentford, are 3-1 favourites.

The bookmakers did not impress Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, who made the draw with Peter Beardsley, his fellow England international, at Lancaster Gate. Adams said: "United are a superb side. I would not bet against them."

The only other team through to the fifth round are Aston Villa, 1-0 winners away to Sheffield United yesterday. Dwight Yorke's penalty gives them another trip outside the FA Carling Premiership, to either Ipswich Town or their West Midlands neighbours, Walsall.

Villa, who have already secured a place in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, where they will play Arsenal, are confident of another good Cup run.

Andy Towsend, the Ireland and Villa midfield player, said: "If Ipswich beat Walsall it will be a tough game for us, but at the moment we are in good spirits. I think we are playing half-decent, and we look forward to going there."

The draw was uniquely complicated. Mike Collett, author of *The Guinness Record of the FA Cup*, confirmed yesterday that a record number of clubs had gone into the draw for the fifth round. Saturday was football's worst day for postponements for 33 years, with 55 games in England and Scotland being called off.

In the 1962-63 season, the third round took 66 days to complete, with 22 different playing days and a total of 261 postponements. It was scheduled to take place on January 5, but only three matches went ahead, and the round was eventually completed on March 11. Sixteen attempts were made to play the tie between Birmingham City and Bury.

However, only once has an entire round been wiped out by the weather. That was the fifth round on February 8, 1969, when all eight matches were postponed.

The draw yesterday brings the propect of a London Premiership derby. If West Ham United beat Grimsby Town, they would have a home fixture against either Queens Park Rangers or Chelsea, who meet tonight at Loftus Road.

The rearranged games are being played next week, and Terry Venables, the England coach, must be hoping that none of them are postponed or go to replays. This is because any ties would have to be held during the following week, when England are having a pre-European championship get-together, from February 12 to 14, at Aston Villa's training ground — a rare occasion for Venables to have some unharassed preparation with his squad without having to concentrate on an international match.

FA CUP DETAILS

Fifth round draw

Shrewsbury Town or Liverpool v Charlton Athletic or Brentford
Nottingham Forest or Oxford United v Tottenham Hotspur or Wolverhampton Wanderers
Bolton Wanderers or Leeds United v Everton or Port Vale
Ipswich Town or Walsall v Aston Villa
Swindon Town or Oldham Athletic v Southampton or Crewe Alexandra
Manchester United v Coventry City or Manchester City
Huddersfield Town or Peterborough United v Middlesbrough or Wimbledon
West Ham United or Grimsby Town v Queens Park Rangers or Chelsea

☐*Matches to be played weekend of February 17, 18 and 19.*

Rescheduled fourth-round ties

Tues February 6

Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool
Ipswich Town v Walsall
Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United
Charlton Athletic v Brentford
Huddersfield Town v Peterborough United

Weds February 7

Coventry City v Manchester City
Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
Nottingham Forest v Oxford United
Southampton v Crewe Alexandra
Swindon Town v Oldham Athletic
West Ham United v Grimsby Town

Fourth-round replays

Tues February 6

Port Vale v Everton

Weds February 7

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Tottenham Hotspur

Van Hooijdonk beats the Whitehill Welfare defence to score Celtic's first goal at Easter Road yesterday. Photograph: Chris Bacon

Whitehill fare well thanks to Cantley

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

IN THE Tennents Scottish Cup, the blowing of a whistle is the signal for romance to end. A match such as Celtic's 3-0 third-round victory over Whitehill Welfare at Easter Road yesterday is better anticipated then experienced. That principle held good despite the great resilience of the little club from the village of Rosewell, to the south of Edinburgh.

The FA Cup is a triumphant, annual demonstration of football roots that spread to every corner of England. Any victory by a non-League side, unexpected though it may be, has its place in a long tradition. In Scotland, however, the custom is more often one of servility. For generations, the Old Firm have generally been much too good for the other senior clubs, let alone the unfamiliar opposition they can meet at this stage of the Scottish Cup.

This is not to minimise Whitehill's achievement. On Saturday, after all, Keith, of the Highland League, had been beaten 10-1 by Rangers at Pittodrie. In the game yesterday, there were Celtic supporters who were a little peeved when their team failed to score, as Rangers had done, by the third minute, but they soon learnt to have more respect for Whitehill.

Those supporters, of course, also built up a store of indignation towards a Celtic side which was failing in its duty to humiliate an East of Scotland League club. Excellent goalkeeping from Scott Cantley and particularly dogged defending by the Whitehill centre backs, Derek Steel and Ian Brown, ensured that Celtic had grave difficulty in reclaiming the affections of their followers.

Even once all of that has been acknowledged, though, the fact remains that there was never the remotest chance of Tommy Burns's team losing this game. Cupties only function when there is a measure of uncertainty and this one was accordingly impaired by the infrequency with which Whitehill were allowed to attack.

They did rouse their supporters in the second half, while still a single goal behind, when a header by Ricky Smith deflected off John Hughes to run narrowly wide, but Celtic had to suffer little more than faint embarrassment. Whitehill are hardly to be blamed for that. To delay the Glasgow club's goals and limit their number was as much, or more, than anyone could have asked.

It should be recorded that Celtic have, in their time, experienced the ignominy of defeat by non-League opposition in the Scottish Cup. On that occasion they were comfortably beaten, 4-2, by the Renfrewshire club, Arthurlie. A local draper then gave each member of the winning team a hat with the match details inscribed on the inside.

These were treasured items, destined to become family heirlooms, and one of them was even found in Canada, to where one of the players had emigrated. The game itself, however, was played in 1897 and Celtic have never permitted themselves to be overcome by non-League adversaries since.

Whitehill's feat in even participating in this match deserved to be honoured. Last week, the local paper in Midlothian printed on the front page a message of support in the club's colours. Some might have wondered, however, whether the game would end in the sort of rout that would require a black border for the report in next week's edition.

Whitehill had far too much pride, and Celtic far too little sharpness, for that. Cantley's extraordinary series of saves stretched across the entire afternoon, but Burns's team never overwhelmed him with work. Indeed, Celtic recorded their first goal only six minutes from the interval.

With long-awaited incisiveness, John Collins sent Andy Walker through to deliver a low cross that Pierre van Hooijdonk turned into the net. It was only in the 76th minute, however, that Celtic began to add bulk to the margin of victory. A deep cross from Collins was headed back across the target by Morten Wieghorst for the substitute, Simon Donnelly, to finish.

Ten minutes from the end, a corner from Collins and flick by Wieghorst allowed Van Hooijdonk, at the far post, to roll in his nineteenth goal of the season. By then, though, it was far too late for Celtic to disguise the insipidness of their performance. "We let our standards slip," Burns said.

The value of the day for him may really have lain in the opportunity it provided to give Brian O'Neil his first appearance, as a substitute, since he underwent knee surgery in May. Celtic now have a home tie against Raith Rovers in the fourth round.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Clyde or Dundee v Rangers; Clydebank or Stirling Albion v Motherwell or Aberdeen; Celtic v Raith Rovers; Dumbarton or Airdrieonians v Forfar Athletic; Berwick Rangers or Dundee United v Dunfermline Athletic or St Mirren; Kilmarnock v Heart of Midlothian or Partick Thistle; Falkirk or Stenhousemuir v Caledonian Thistle or East Fife, Hamilton Academical or St Johnstone v Greenock Morton or Montrose.

Ties to be played on Saturday, February 17

Report on Reading goes to FA

READING will be reported to the Football Association after a coin was thrown at an official during the second half of their 3-0 defeat against Manchester United at Elm Park (Russell Kempson writes). A 10p piece struck Jeff Pettitt, one of the linesmen, above his left eyebrow. He recovered after treatment and finished the game.

"It will be in my report to the FA," Jeff Winter, the referee, said. "The matter is now in the hands of the police because they believe they know who threw the coin." John Madejski, the Reading chairman, said: "This sort of things rears its ugly head from time to time. It's just the mindless element at work again. If the police have got the culprit on camera, this club won't be seeing him again."

Michael Thompson, 41, the millionaire businessman who assumed control of Swansea City at the weekend, will begin his search for a new manager for the second division strugglers within the next few days. Thompson said he has sufficient resources to take the club to the first division.

Rumours circulated in the city that he was attempting to secure the services of Ian Rush, the record Wales goalscorer, who might follow the same route from Liverpool to Swansea that John Toshak took in the late 1970s.

Thompson bought the club from Doug Sharpe, who had been at the helm for a decade. Sharpe, plus Glyn Hammond and Mal Griffiths, remain on the board.

Burton makes Millwall pay for lack of unity

Millwall	1
Portsmouth	1

By Alyson Rudd

SAT high in the less than half-full stadium in the calm chill, the Portsmouth supporters rang their "Pompey" chimes. All around was quiet and still, the more so with only three other football matches being played in the country, but then the raucous Millwall supporters spoilt it.

It seemed that Portsmouth, down to ten men and a goal behind within half an hour, drew strength from the sneers, which were directed by the home supporters at their own side. The adage that a team that wins when playing badly will take the title has been of concern to anyone who has seen Millwall this season. Mick McCarthy's side led the Endsleigh Insurance League first division for much of the early part of the campaign playing tired, uninspiring football. Even now, without a home win since mid-November, Millwall can sneak into the top six. If they were to win back a rapport with their supporters, the repercussions could be serious.

A counsellor would have a field day. Millwall's drop in form coincided with McCarthy expressing an interest in taking over from Jack Charlton and heading Ireland's World Cup qualifying campaign. All sorts of people have been touted as possible successors to Charlton, but the two favourites remain McCarthy and Joe Kinnear.

The arrival of Kulkov and Yuran from Spartak Moscow has not helped, either. One Brazilian arrives in Middlesbrough and the Riverside Stadium turns green and yellow in paroxysms of delight. Two Russians arrive in Bermondsey and Danny Baker buys a fury hat. At least on Saturday Yuran set up Millwall's goal, interchanging passes with Malkin and then feeding Van Blerk. Kulkov, though, only seems able to play off his comrade.

"Kulkov, he sees passes and believes players should be there that maybe aren't there," McCarthy explained. It is never quite clear whether McCarthy is criticising his other players for not being clever enough or explaining that his Russian imports need a lot more time to adapt. So, while everyone in the Millwall camp needled each other, Burton, a precocious 19-year-old home-grown Portsmouth player, equalised with a splendid left-footed shot from 20 yards that gently curled past Tim Carter, the Millwall goalkeeper.

Carter: relishing move to central role

Jimmy Carter suffered a predictable haranguing. Carter was a Millwall player in the late 1980s but found transfers to Liverpool and Arsenal to be slightly over-ambitious and arrived in Portsmouth on a free transfer. If ever a player looked destined to cover only the right flank of a football field, then Carter was him.

However, Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, has convinced Carter he can play a central midfield role and the poor form that scarred the player's arrival on the south coast and led to a transfer request has been turned around. Carter even scampered around the left wing and acted as an emergency centre forward on Saturday. All is peaceful, then, in the Fenwick camp and Portsmouth ought to be able to improve on their modest league position.

Millwall need a dose of harmony, too. At least the the Football Association of Ireland will name their choice of manager this week. If McCarthy is it, he might want to think twice before persuading any Russians that they have Irish grandparents.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): T Carter — R Newman, A Witter, K Stevens, B Thatcher — D Savage (sub: S Taylor, 76min), J Connor, V Kulkov, J van Blerk — S Yuran, C Malkin.
PORTSMOUTH (4-4-2): A Knight — R Pethick, G Butters, R Perrett, M Simpson — J Durnin (sub: A Thomson, 46), J Carter (sub: J Rees, 75), A McLoughlin, P Wood — P Walsh (sub: D Burton, 38), P Hall.
Referee: J Kirkby.

Yeboah on the mark for Ghana

A GOAL by Tony Yeboah, the Leeds United forward, gave Ghana a 1-0 victory over a Zaire side reduced to ten men in a heated African Nations' Cup quarter-final in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Yeboah, who has scored 15 goals in the FA Carling Premiership this season, was also involved in a controversial off-the-ball incident in the fifteenth minute, when he allegedly elbowed Ntumba Danga, a defender, in the face. The referee, however, did not see the incident. Five minutes later, another Zaire defender, Nzelo Lembi, was sent off for aiming a kick at Abedi Pelé, who tormented the opposition throughout.

The only goal came three minutes after the dismissal of Lembi. Pelé, who plays for the Italian club Torino, beat two defenders before pulling a cross back to the near post. Although the Zaire goalkeeper, Pangi Merikani, seemed to have it covered, Yeboah's predatory instincts got him to the ball first.

Pelé's supremacy was only curtailed when he hurt his left ankle seven minutes from time, an injury that will keep him out of the semi-final against the hosts, South Africa, on Wednesday. It is doubtful, too, that he would recover in time for the final if his team-mates triumph in Johannesburg.

"It was a tough, physical game and we made plenty of mistakes," Yeboah said. "But the important thing is that we learnt from them."

Photograph, page 24

Rangers insist defeat is not the end for Wilkins

By Russell Kempson

IF ONE believes one of the more speculative tales circulating on football's grapevine, Ray Wilkins, the Queens Park Rangers manager, faces his moment of destiny at Loftus Road tonight. Should Chelsea, the visitors, win the FA Cup fourth-round tie, Wilkins will be on his way after only 14 months in charge.

Defeat would leave Rangers with nothing this season but a fight against losing their place in the FA Carling Premiership and the lucrative perks that go with it. They lie in nineteenth place and have lost five successive matches, and Wilkins has been forced to blood, and persist with, several young players.

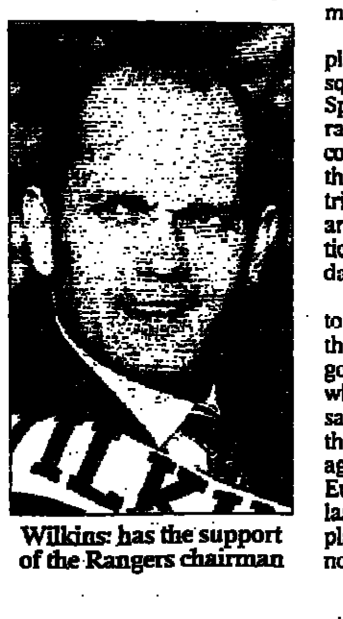
However, Peter Ellis, the Rangers chairman, is quick to dismiss reports that he is preparing Wilkins's P45. "There is no question of this match being Ray's Waterloo," he said yesterday. "He has a big future in management and, hopefully, at this club.

"People forget he took us to the sixth round of the Cup last season and, after we had flirted with relegation, we finished in the top half of the table. People have very short memories and job security is something we haven't had a need to talk about here."

Kevin Gallen, the Rangers striker, also ignores the rumour factory. "When results aren't going for you, there's always this type of talk," he said. "It doesn't help us or the club. You've just got to forget it and get on with it. Perhaps the Cup will give us the chance to get the show back on the road. We've got home advantage and a great chance."

In contrast, Chelsea, tenth in the Premiership, have struck a rich vein of form; one defeat in 13 matches. Ruud Gullit, the elegant Dutchman, deserves much of the praise that has been heaped on Stamford Bridge recently, yet his team-mates have responded with increasing self-confidence. During Gullit's six-match absence in late November and early December, Chelsea lost only once.

"A lot of people said we would really struggle when Ruud was missing but that's not been the case," Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said. "Although it's great when he comes back, we've proved that we can cope without him." Chelsea have to prove, too, that they can cope tonight without Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise, who are suspended. Paul Furlong and Gavin Peacock are likely to replace them.



Wilkins: has the support of the Rangers chairman

"It's always a blow to lose good players but it at least offers the chance to give other people opportunities," Hoddle said. "Paul and Gavin have been very unlucky to be out of the side, and it's been tough for me to make those decisions, but I can now call on them with no worries.

"It has reached the stage where I sit on the bench being entertained by the football we are playing. Of course, there is always a bit of tension for a manager, but I'm really enjoying watching the side. If that's the case, then other people must be enjoying it, too."

Hoddle, a former England player with Wilkins, took his squad for a three-day break in Spain last week, where the rain fell mainly on the golf courses. Although it restricted the recreational value of the trip, Hoddle felt that the rest and recuperation, after a hectic spell of four matches in 14 days, was invaluable.

"I always want my players to play good football and, in the last few months, they have got closer than ever before to what I want from them," he said. "Even when we reached the FA Cup final two years ago, and the semi-final of the European Cup Winners' Cup last season, we were not playing as well as we are now."

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Everton again look vulnerable against Endsleigh League opposition

Holders' grip loosened by Vale threat

Everton	2
Port Vale	2

By Peter Ball

IF EVERTON are to become only the fourth team to retain the FA Cup this century, they will have done it the hard way. On Saturday, for the second round in succession, they failed to dispose of Endsleigh Insurance League opposition at Goodison Park. Port Vale more than earning their draw in a dramatic finale.

So, after Stockport, Burslem. "We're going by the scenic route this time," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, quipped as he contemplated the fourth-round replay on Wednesday week. "Last year we were powerful at home, but we probably played worse today than we did against Stockport here."

That is a warning for Port Vale, since Everton won at Edgeley Park after making a terrible fist of things at Goodison. Judged on Saturday's performance, though, Port Vale have only their opponents' greater height to fear. The only time Everton looked dangerous was from corners and free kicks, when Dave Watson, their outstanding player, Ablett and Short came forward to join Duncan Ferguson in aerial assaults.

FA CUP

It produced one goal, and some near misses, Ferguson and Amokachi hitting the same post after one corner, with Ablett's follow-up effort blocked on the line, but otherwise Port Vale stood firm.

Aspin, who played through the second half with a hamstring injury, was outstanding, bald head gleaming in the floodlights as he held the fort determinedly, and alongside him, Griffiths was resolute. The £1,000 buy from Rhyl had been drafted in as someone who, at 6ft 4in, could meet the £4 million Ferguson eyeball to eyeball, and he did so nobly, in spite of picking up a yellow card after only eight minutes.

"He's by far the strongest lad I've played against. I wouldn't fancy playing him every week," Griffiths said. "But it was a good experience, and I don't mind doing it one more time."

Ferguson and the tall defenders apart, Everton had nothing to offer. Stuart was anonymous, Kanchelskis's touch deserted him, and only Amokachi gave any sign of quality in attack. If Royle's desire to give his side greater width made bringing on Limpar understandable, taking off Amokachi was an extraordinary decision.

Port Vale, by contrast, rose to the occasion with relish. "You see these games against Stockport and Port Vale, and you think it's laughable, but when you have to play them it's not so funny," Limpar said.

Guppy and McCarthy ran riot down the wings so that, by the hour, Everton had changed both full backs, Parkinson swapping with Horne at half-time and Hinchcliffe coming on to replace Ablett, who had a bad afternoon defensively. If the finishing of Foyle and Naylor had matched their movement and touch in the build-up, Port Vale could have had the game safely won by half-time.

But Ebbrell blocked McCarthy's shot on the line after the winger had beaten both Ablett and Short, and, after McCarthy had left Stuart bemused, his perfect, low cross, deflected by Short, was put over the bar from less than five yards by Foyle. "It hit my shin-pad," the striker said. Instead, after Ferguson, too, had missed an easy chance, Everton took the lead, Amokachi forcing a corner and then scoring from it.

"We always knew we were going to be struggling with their height and power at set-pieces, so we had said: 'Try not to give set-pieces away,'" John Rudge, the Port Vale manager said.

Musselwhite got to Watson's header but could only knock it up and, as it came down, Amokachi rose highest to head home from under the bar. He is lethal from a yard in Cup-ties, as Tottenham will remember.

For Port Vale to go in behind at half-time was unjust: if Everton had scored again when Ferguson, Amokachi and Ablett had their chance from another corner a minute after the interval, it would have been a travesty, but the ball stayed out for Port Vale to claim the equaliser they deserved from a move of a quality that Everton never threatened to match. The ball flowed down the left, from Guppy to Tankard, to Guppy to Naylor, whose perfect cross enabled Foyle to make amends with a flying header.

As the game moved towards its close and the chill of a frozen afternoon grew deeper, so that the snowflakes which had drifted slowly across Goodison Park at the start disappeared, that seemed likely to be that. But there was high drama to come.

With two minutes remaining, Musselwhite, until then one of Vale's solid defenders, committed a schoolboy howler, dropping Limpar's innocuous cross at Ferguson's feet. "I might have taken my eye off it," the goalkeeper said. "A mistake like that — I just wanted the ground to swallow me up."

Help, though, was at hand in the form of Guppy and Ian Bogie, who had come on to play in midfield when Porter dropped back to replace the injured Hill.

With the game as good as over, Guppy's cross was headed out to Bogie. His optimistic shot hit Ebbrell and then, the jackpot, the ball looping off the defender and over Southall into the net. "We'd been practising that move all week," Rudge said.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — B Horne, D Watson, C Short, G Ablett (sub A Hinchcliffe, 63min) — A Kanchelskis, J Parkinson, J Ebbrell, G Stuart — D Amokachi (sub A Limpar, 62), D Ferguson.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill (sub I Bogie, 45), G Griffiths, N Aspin, A Tankard — J McCarthy, R Walker, A Porter, S Guppy — M Foyle, A Naylor.

Referee: M Reed

Griffiths, left, and Ferguson duel for possession at Goodison Park. Their confrontation was one of the highlights of a 2-2 draw. Photograph: Simon Mooney

Skilful Reading pay high price for aspirations beyond victory

Reading	0
Manchester United	3

By Simon Barnes

THERE was a time when you would have walked towards this fixture rubbing your hands with anticipation: towards a classic four-cornered shack, roofed with corrugated metal that rises from a sea of little red houses, from which the front-room is separated from the street by a single door. Football country.

Perhaps we should have a Campaign for Real Football Grounds. But, instead, increasingly, we get zoned development, things called stadia, set amid copious car-parking potential on light-industrial estates. Elm Park, Reading, is a throw-back.

The pitch, thanks to the marginally balmier weather of the Thames Valley and a huge amount of thought and labour, was playable. In other times, it might have been a classic upset pitch — perfectly playable, but causing bizarre bounces and bobbles designed to put the big boys off their smooth, clever passing game.

The trouble is that Reading also play a smooth, clever passing game. These days, few lower division sides go into their Cup-ties roaring with underdog spirit and chippy aggression. Long balls, whack and harry them out of it, up and at 'em; that is for wimps.

Over a mad 90 minutes, anyone can beat anyone at football, if it comes to a battle of pure spirit. But Reading took Manchester United on in a contest of pure football, and came second best. Well, they would, wouldn't they? It's only logical.

"A good footballing side," the United manager, Alex Ferguson, said afterwards. "One of the best in the first division." But not, of course, good enough to go toe-to-toe with one of the best in the FA Carling Premiership. QED.

There has been a shift in the lower clubs' understanding of romanticism. Instead of believing that they have bigger hearts and greater spirits than the pampered men of the bigger teams, they now come out wanting to show that they are just as skilful.

Perhaps it shows a higher aspiration. But it is not the kind of romanticism that wins Cup-ties. Reading can, with justice, feel proud of themselves. They were also most soundly beaten. They will point to three very good chances in the first half-hour, in which they played their best football.

None of the misses was a culpable, hang-your-head-in-shame kind of error. But perhaps the nature of the misses revealed something about the Reading aspirations. They wanted to show they were as good at pure, logical football as United. But they knew in their hearts that they were not.

Reading, driven by two 36-year-old player-managers, Quinn and Gooding, played some excellent stuff. But Morley twice put chances wide, Nogan was too slowly on to Gooding's cross and Reading, having given it their best shot, could now only lose gracefully.

There is a complex relationship between skill and tiredness, and as Reading began to flag, so United did not. It was the start of the Giggs and Keane show. They took turns to burst from midfield, one drifting past his markers, the other going straight through them. Both men and their methods were equally cruel, equally effective.

It was Giggs who set Sharpe up for a shot, and the rebound fell to Giggs again for an incisive finish. It is barely a year since I wrote of Giggs's decline, along with hopes that it was temporary. How long ago that seems.

The second half was routine, United rising to an icy peak of self-confidence. There was nothing left to worry them. Still, it took a bizarre few moments to get their second. Parker came on as a substitute and was booked for his first touch. His second touch was a goal of startling quality, racing up the right touchline and letting fly.

The shot was unstoppable and, if it was intended to be a cross, never mind. United bossed the rest of the game and, just before going-home time, Butt decided it was high time he had a mighty surge from midfield. That set up Cantona for a tap-in third.

Alas, poor Reading. They seem doomed to grace their own greatest occasions with splendid football, and to come comfortably second. Last spring, I saw their traumatic Endsleigh Insurance League first-division play-off final against Bolton Wanderers. They won the first half comprehensively, 2-0, but lost 4-3 after extra time and a missed penalty. On that occasion, Reading tried to take the passion out of the game and to close it out professionally. And they paid the price.

They went into this game with skill first and passion second. The price was the same. You can analyse football until you are purple in the face but, in the end, you are forced to conclude that football is not a rational pursuit. Reading went into their Cup-tie with a game-plan based on logic. Logically, they lost. Those are the cold facts.

READING (4-3-1-2): N Hammond — T Jones, A Bernal, A Williams, M Gilkes — P Parkinson (sub: M Meaker, 75min), P Holsgrove, M Gooding — L Nogan (sub: J Lambert, 76) — J Quinn (sub: A Lovell, 87), T Morley.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — P Neville (sub: P Parker, 55), S Bruce, G Neville, D Irwin — R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, L Sharpe — E Cantona — A Cole.

Referee: J Winter

Cantona, scorer of Manchester United's third goal, leaps to avoid Hammond, the Reading goalkeeper

Where there's a will but not always a way to stop Giggs

Russell Kempson on Manchester United's triumph over psychic power at Elm Park

As Ryan Giggs weaved his way through the mass of autograph hunters, *much as he had done* through the Reading defence all afternoon, an arm extended towards him. Shaking his hand firmly, the tall, lean figure said: "I told Alex Ferguson that we would beat you but your talent overpowered my mind." Giggs, momentarily bewildered, beat a hasty retreat down the players' tunnel. Discretion is the better part of valour when confronted by a crank.

To many, Uri Geller is nothing more than a crank. A charlatan of the psychic world, in which things go bump in the night and can never be explained. A world in which he is constantly tried and tested for weakness, for signs of obvious chicanery or tangible evidence of sleight of hand in front of a susceptible audience. At Elm Park on Saturday, Geller, paranormalist extraordinaire, indulged in his favourite pastime.

He bent a spoon for Sir Bobby Charlton, the Manchester United director. "He asked me how I did it," Geller said. "He was amazed." He melted a spoon in the hand of Albert Cantona, father of United's Eric. "*Impossible*," Cantona Sr said. A week earlier, when Ferguson, the United manager, had visited Elm Park on a reconnaissance mission, he, too, witnessed curling cutlery.

"We use only ten per cent of our mind power," Geller said. "All I'm saying is that there is always room to use that little bit more. It is a belief in the powers of positive thinking. Bending spoons is just one way of illustrating it."

Geller, 49, has followed Reading for 1½ years, with his wife, Hanna, and children, David, 15, and Natalie, 13. They live at nearby Sonning, ye olde worlde village on the banks of the Thames, from where he plots his weird and wonderful global exploits. He counts Ronny Rosenthal, the Tottenham Hotspur striker and fellow Israeli, among his many footballing friends.

Since he started supporting the Endsleigh Insurance League club, its fortunes have risen sharply — runners-up in the first division, beaten by Bolton Wanderers in the play-off final at Wembley, Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finalists. Although Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn, Reading's joint player-managers, have taken most of the plaudits, Geller claims a significant assist.

"Last season was Reading's best in 124 years," he said. "I'm not totally responsible, of course I'm not, but I've found that talking to people, the fans, can make a difference. Again, it's positive thinking, a sort of psychological pep-talk. If the fans can think this way, can believe in their team, concentrate on it and send a message, it can help."

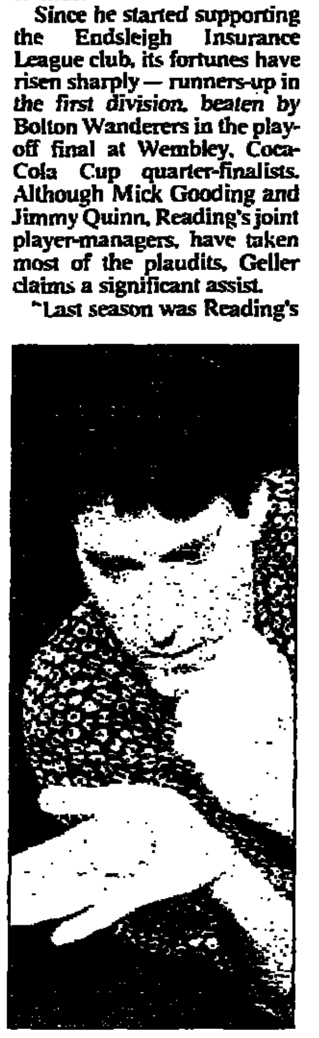
When Geller was involved with a club in Cyprus in 1963, it won the national cup. "It's déjà vu," he said. "It's happening again, here. We will be in the Premiership before the millennium is up. I know it."

When Reading beat Bristol City 1-0 at Elm Park last season, with a last-minute goal from Michael Gilkes, Geller claimed to have willed the ball into the net. Strangely, he did not feature in later issues of the match programme — U Geller, appearances 0, goals 1.

Though the sceptics are plentiful and vociferous, he remains undaunted. Next month, live on television, he intends to psych the cyclist, Bruce Bursford, to beat the world record speed of 207mph. "He can go up to 250mph," Geller said. "I am going to give him the energy to break the physical boundaries. He will also have with him the powers of 15 million viewers."

And so the acid test. Geller dismissed the apprentice cleaning the referee's room, shut the door and cleared the stage. He picked up a teaspoon, discarded by the match officials, and held it, gently stroking the stem. It bent, instantly, curving upwards.

He handed it over and it continued to move. It felt warm, an inanimate object that had taken on life. Giggs was right; it was time for a swift, dumbfounded departure.



Geller claims he willed the ball into the net

Defenders state case for review of Taylor's deficiencies

Tottenham Hotspur	1
Wolverhampton W	1

By Pat Gibson

NOT too many people have had a good word to say about Graham Taylor since he was hounded out of Molineux by the baying Wolverhampton Wanderers supporters early last month, but Mark McGhee, his successor as manager, certainly did after the team he inherited had frustrated Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Taylor was responsible for taking Dean Richards, Neil Emblen and Eric Young to Wolverhampton and the three of them, playing together at the heart of the defence, were the main reasons why Tottenham will have to run the gauntlet of one of the most passionate crowds in English football when this FA Cup fourth-round tie is replayed a week on Wednesday.

McGhee did not have to be a managerial genius to know that the greatest Tottenham threat was going to come from Sheringham and Armstrong, who have scored more goals for the FA Carling Premiership side this season than the entire Wolverhampton team have managed in the first division of the Endsleigh Insurance League.

His answer to the problem was to give Young and Richards the specific tasks of marking Sheringham and Armstrong man-for-man, leaving Emblen to tidy up in between them. It worked so well that Armstrong was contained to just two fleeting opportunities while Sheringham had what amounted to no more than half a chance.

No one questioned the wisdom of Taylor when he spent £1.3 million on Richards, 21, from Bradford City or £750,000 on Emblen, 24, from Millwall. They were obviously players of considerable potential but he had to endure some ridicule when he picked up Young, 35, on a free transfer from Crystal Palace. It was the fact that he got him for nothing that looked faintly ridiculous on Saturday.

Full results and league tables ... Page 26

Richards was the one who caught the eye because he is such a rarity in the English game, a ball-playing centre half. McGhee is resigned to losing him if he cannot give him Premiership football by the end of next season.

Interestingly, however, both McGhee and Taylor, the latter snugly insulated from the cold outside in the warmth of a television studio in the stands, singled out Young for the highest praise.

"It was a question of identifying the danger and concentrating on that," McGhee said. "I think Sheringham is the most complete centre forward in England, a clever player who can get the others going, and Eric gave Teddy a difficult day.

"There were a lot of question marks at Wolverhampton over the fact that he was signed at all and, to be fair, Graham's signing of him has been justified by what he's done for us.

"He does not come across as an over-confident lad but he's got everything you need in a centre half. He knows what he's trying to do and he gets on with it."

The rest of the Wolverhampton players knew what they were trying to do as well, which was to pass the ball around in the approved McGhee manner rather than move it forward quickly in the more direct style of Taylor. It was ironic, therefore, that an attempt by Thompson to follow the instructions of his new manager should have helped to give Tottenham the lead in the thirteenth minute. His pass across the face of the defence evaded Young, and Wilson seized on it to drive in his first goal for Tottenham.

It would have been enough to win the game had not Austin suffered a similar aberration 15 minutes later. He had plenty of time to clear when he beat Goodman to a flick by Bull, but instead he chose to pass back to his goalkeeper.

The attempt was under-hit and, as Walker lunged into a desperate tackle, the strength of Goodman became the prevailing factor and the ball spun back into an empty net.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh — R Fox, D Caskey, S Campbell, C Wilson — E Sheringham, C Armstrong.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (5-3-2): M Stowell — M Rankine, E Young, N Emblen, D Richards, A Thompson — M Atkins, S Osborn, D Ferguson — D Goodman, S Bull.

Referee: D Allison

FA CUP

FOURTH ROUND

EVERTON (1) 2 **PORT VALE** (0) 2
Amokachi 40 Foyle 59
Ferguson 88 Bogie 90
33,168

Everton: N Southall, B Horne, D Watson, C Short, G Ablett (sub: A Hinchcliffe, 62min), A Kanchelskis, J Parkinson, J Ebbrell, G Stuart, D Amokachi (sub: A Limpar, 62), D Ferguson.
Booked: Short.

Port Vale: P Musselwhite, A Hill (sub: I Bogie, 45), G Griffiths, N Aspin, A Tankard, J McCarthy, R Walker, A Porter, S Guppy, M Foyle, A Naylor.
Booked: Griffiths, Bogie.
Referee: M Reed.
Replay: Tuesday 6 February (7.45).

READING (0) 0 **MANCHESTER UTD** (1) 3
14,780 Giggs 36
Parker 56
Cantona 89

Reading: N Hammond, T Jones, A Bernal, A Williams, M Gilkes, P Parkinson (sub: M Meaker, 75min), P Holsgrove, M Gooding, L Nogan (sub: J Lambert, 75), J Quinn (sub: A Lovell, 87), T Morley.
Booked: Gooding, Bernal, Parkinson.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, P Neville (sub: P Parker, 55), S Bruce, G Neville, D Irwin, R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, L Sharpe, E Cantona, A Cole.
Booked: Schmeichel, Parker.
Referee: J Winter.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 **WOLVES** (1) 1
Wilson 13 Goodman 28
32,812

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh, R Fox, D Caskey, S Campbell, C Wilson, E Sheringham, C Armstrong.

Wolverhampton Wanderers: M Stowell, M Rankine, E Young, N Emblen, D Richards, A Thompson, M Atkins, S Osborn, D Ferguson, D Goodman, S Bull.
Referee: D Allison.
Replay: Wednesday 7 February (7.45).

Yesterday

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 0 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 1
18,749 Yorke 63 (pen)

Sheffield United: A Kelly, C Short, R Nilsen, M Patterson, D Hodgson, D Tuttle, D White, G Cowans (sub: G Hodges, 51min), D Hutchison (sub: C Veart, 45), M Ward, D Whitehouse.
Booked: Kelly.
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, S Milosevic, T Johnson.
Referee: A Wilkie.

POSTPONED: Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United (pools panel verdict: away win); Charlton Athletic v Brentford (pools panel verdict: home win); Coventry City v Manchester City (pools panel verdict: home win), Huddersfield v Peterborough (pools panel verdict: score draw); Ipswich Town v Walsall (pools panel verdict: score draw); Middlesbrough v Wimbledon (pools panel verdict: home win); Nottingham Forest v Oxford United; Shrewsbury v Liverpool (pools panel verdict: away win), Southampton v Crewe Alexandra (pools panel verdict: home win); Swindon Town v Oldham Athletic (pools panel verdict: no score draw); West Ham United v Grimsby Town (pools panel verdict: home win).

GOALSCORERS

FA Carling Premiership: 27 Shearer (Blackburn Rovers) 23 Fowler (Liverpool); Ferdinand (Newcastle United). 20 Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur) 19 Wright (Arsenal). 15 Yeboah (Leeds United) 13 Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur). 12 Blake (Bolton, 12 for Sheffield United), Dublin (Coventry City). Hirst (Sheffield Wednesday): Holdsworth (Wimbledon); Yorke (Aston Villa). 11 Scholes (Manchester United); Stuart (Everton). 10 Bright (Sheffield Wednesday).

First division: 17 Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers). 16 Goodman (Wolverhampton Wanderers). 14 Sturridge (Derby County): Roberts (Leicester City). 13 Hunt (West Bromwich); Hunt (Birmingham City). 12 Mathie (Ipswich Town); Gabbiadini (Derby County); Booth (Huddersfield Town); Ree (Millwall); Ward (Norwich City). 11 Freedman (Crystal Palace, 3 for Barnet), Phillips (Watford); Willems (Derby County); Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers).

Second division: 21 Nogan (Burnley). Barnes (York City). 19 Goater (Rotherham). 18 Stewart (Bristol Rovers). 16 Jones (Bournemouth). 15 Finney (Swindon Town); Reeves (Carlisle); White (Notts County). 14 Connolly (Wrexham): Martindale (Peterborough); Wilson (Walsall): Showler (Bradford City). 13 Lightbourne (Walsall). 12 Preece (Blackpool); De Souza (*Wycombe Wanderers*).

Third division: 22 Dale (Cardiff City). 19 Saville (Preston North End), White (Hereford United) 17 Whitehall (Rochdale). 16 McFarlane (Scunthorpe). 15 Butler (Gillingham, 11 for Cambridge United). Littlejohn (Plymouth Argyle) 13 Fortune-West (Gillingham); Stant (Bury): Adcock (Colchester United). 11 White (Northampton Town); Diaz (Wigan Athletic). 10 Corazzin (Cambridge United).

Scottish Premier: 19 Van Hooijdonk (Celtic) 17 Durie (Rangers) 14 McCoist (Rangers). 12 Collins (Celtic); Wright (Kilmarnock) 11 Dodds (Aberdeen). 10 Robertson (Hearts); Jackson (Hibernian). 9 Lennon (Raith). 8 Wright (Hibernian), Cameron (Raith); Miller (Aberdeen); Salenko (Rangers); Gascoigne (Rangers); Booth (Aberdeen).

First division: 14 Hamilton (Dundee). 13 Hawke (Greenock Morton). 12 O'Boyle (St Johnstone) 11 Lilley (Greenock Morton); Petrie (Dunfermline); Shaw (Dundee) 10 Brewster (Dundee United): Grady (Clydebank); Shaw (Dunfermline). 9 Yardley (St Mirren, 2 for Cowdenbeath); Duffield (Airdrie); McIntyre (Airdrie). 8 Tosh (Dundee); Winters (Dundee United). 7 Eadie (Clydebank).

Second division: 20 McCormick (Stirling). 13 Irvine (Berwick), Arnand (Clyde). 12 Mathieson (Stenhousemuir); McGleshen (Montrose); Hutchison (Stenhousemuir). 10 Bone (Stirling, 1 for St Mirren); Little (Stenhousemuir). 8 Fraser (Berwick); Mallan (Queen of South), Taggart (Stirling).

Third division: 20 Stewart (Caley Thistle). 13 Young (Livingston). 11 Milne (Ross County). 10 MacPherson (Ross County); Young (Albion). 9 Scott (Cowdenbeath); Edgar (Queen's Park); McCormick (Arbroath); Moffat (Alloa).

Goodman: scored sixteenth goal of season for Wolves

QUEENS PARK RANGERS v CHELSEA

GLENN Hoddle takes an in-form Chelsea side to struggling London neighbours Queens Park Rangers for tonight's FA Cup fourth round tie.

Hoddle, however, remains cautious, saying: "All form goes out of the window in local derby matches like this."

In a 13-match run containing just one defeat, confidence among the Chelsea players is high, despite having both Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise out due to suspension.

Queens Park Rangers, meanwhile, have lost their last five Premiership games and now face the possibility of relegation. The FA Cup offers alternative hope to the youthful side which Ray Wilkins has stayed loyal to.

[illegible]

THE adage that an early cup exit allows a team to concentrate on the league may be a key factor in Newcastle United's bid for the FA Carling Premiership title (Julian Desborough writes). The four chasing teams are still in the FA Cup and at least one can be guaranteed upon to go almost all the way to Wembley. Extensive cup runs can cause disruption at the end of an exhausting league programme: fixture congestion — especially when replays and postponed matches are thrown in — together with injuries and loss of players' concentration, are all factors.

Aside from Manchester United's Premiership and FA Cup double in 1993-94, championship winners have had limited cup success over the past ten years (see table below) and, hence, have been able to concentrate on league form. Even in that season, Manchester United were knocked out of the European Cup in the second round, before they reached the gruelling six-match league format. Similarly, the FA Cup exploits of Arsenal and Liverpool from 1988-91 were offset by the absence of European involvement for those sides.

Current season	FAC	LC	Euro
1. Newcastle	3rd	5th	—
2. Manchester Utd	5th*	3rd	1st
3. Liverpool	4th*	4th	2nd
4. Tottenham	4th*	3rd	—
5. Aston Villa	5th*	Semi*	—

Previous champions			
1994-95	FAC	LC	Euro
Blackburn	3rd	4th	1st
1993-94	FAC	LC	Euro
Manchester Utd	Winners	Final	2nd
1992-93	FAC	LC	Euro
Manchester Utd	5th	3rd	1st
1991-92	FAC	LC	Euro
Leeds	*3rd*	*5th*	—
1990-1	FAC	LC	Euro
Arsenal	Semi	4th	—
1989-90	FAC	LC	Euro
Liverpool	Semi	3rd	—
1988-89	FAC	LC	Euro
Arsenal	3rd	4th	—
1987-88	FAC	LC	Euro
Liverpool	Final	3rd	—
1986-87	FAC	LC	Euro
Everton	5th	5th	—

* denotes still in the competition

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

MILLWALL (1) 1 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 1
Van Blerk 24 Burton 74
7,710

Sent off: R Perrett (Portsmouth) 28

POSTPONED: Crystal Palace v Luton Town; Watford v Derby County

SECOND DIVISION

POSTPONED: Bradford City v Notts County (pools panel verdict: away win). Burnley v Bristol Rovers (pools panel verdict: home win). Carlisle v Rotherham (pools panel verdict: home win), Hull v Bristol City; Swansea v Stockport County; Wrexham v Bournemouth (pools panel verdict: home win); Wycombe Wanderers v Brighton and Hove Albion (pools panel verdict score draw). York v Chesterfield (pools panel verdict: score draw).

THIRD DIVISION

POSTPONED: Chester v Wigan Athletic (pools panel verdict: home win). Colchester United v Cambridge United (pools panel verdict. home win): Exeter City v Cardiff City (pools panel verdict: no score draw); Fulham v Darlington, Gillingham v Barnet (pools panel verdict: score draw); Hereford United v Plymouth Argyle; Leyton Orient v Scarborough (pools panel verdict: home win), Northampton Town v Hartlepool (pools panel verdict. away win): Preston North End v Bury (pools panel verdict: score draw); Rochdale v Torquay United (pools panel verdict. home win); Scunthorpe v Lincoln City (pools panel verdict. home win).

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Newtown 2 Holywell 0. Postponed: Bangor City v Barry; Briton Ferry v Cemaes Bay; Caersws v Conwy; Connah's Quay v Ton Pentre; Cwmbran v Rhyl. Flint Town v Caernarfon; Inter Cardiff v Afan Lido. Llansantffraid v Llanelli; Porthmadog v Aberystwyth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Barry Town	22	17	3	2	55	11	54
Flint Town	25	15	5	5	51	25	50
Conwy	22	13	6	3	62	31	45
Bangor City	25	13	5	7	48	38	44
Newtown	21	12	4	5	33	16	40
Connah's Quay	21	9	7	5	44	35	34
Caernarfon	23	8	9	6	43	35	33
Cwmbran	21	8	8	5	32	21	32
Inter Cardiff	23	9	5	9	38	37	32
Caersws	22	10	2	10	48	58	32
Ebbw Vale	23	8	7	8	32	30	31
Porthmadog	25	8	5	12	38	41	29
Ton Pentre	23	7	6	10	28	37	27
Llansantffraid	21	7	5	9	35	34	26
Holywell	25	7	5	13	36	50	26
Aberystwyth	22	6	6	10	35	38	24
Rhyl	24	6	6	12	27	50	24
Afan Lido	20	5	5	10	19	38	20
Cemaes Bay	21	5	4	12	30	51	19
Briton Ferry	20	5	3	12	27	58	18
Llanelli	23	3	4	16	31	58	13

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor 0 Linfield 2, Cliftonville 1 Glentoran 0: Crusaders 1 Glenavon 0; Portadown 1 Ards 3. First division: Ballyclare 0 Coleraine 2, Distillery v Carrick (abandoned, 1-1): Larne 1 Newry 1. Postponed: Omagh v Ballymena.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Crusaders	17	10	2	5	26	20	32
Portadown	16	9	4	3	35	18	31
Glentoran	17	8	4	5	34	22	28
Glenavon	16	8	3	5	26	17	27
Linfield	17	6	5	6	20	22	23
Cliftonville	17	4	6	7	15	30	18
Ards	16	3	5	8	18	25	14
Bangor	16	2	3	11	12	32	9

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Postponed: Drogheda v Cork.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
St Patricks Ath	21	13	4	4	31	23	43
Shelbourne	22	10	9	3	28	15	39
Bohemians	21	11	5	5	43	21	38
Sligo Rovers	22	10	6	6	29	23	36
Dundalk	21	9	6	6	30	25	33
Derry City	20	8	6	6	32	25	30
Cork City	21	8	6	7	24	24	30
Shamrock Rovers	21	7	5	9	15	22	26
UCD	22	7	4	11	21	25	25
Drogheda Utd	21	5	7	9	23	30	22
Galway Utd	22	3	6	13	20	41	15
Athlone Town	22	3	4	15	23	45	13

SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND

CALEY THIS (1) 1 **EAST FIFE** (0) 1
Stewart 11 Dwarika 78
2,320

HIBERNIAN (0) 0 **KILMARNOCK** (0) 2
8,350 Wright 54, 63

Sent off: A Mitchell (Kilmarnock) 79

KEITH (0) 1 **RANGERS** (6) 10
Gardan 89 Ferguson 2, 20, 49
14,000 Cleland 13, 15, 28
Durie 45 (pen)
Robertson 47
Miller 82
Mikhailichenko 87

RAITH (0) 3 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 0
Crawford 71, 87 2,665
Lennon 78

ROSS CO (0) 0 **FORFAR** (1) 3
2,283 Bowes 4, 61
Morgan 59

POSTPONED: Berwick v Dundee United, Clyde v Dundee; Clydebank v Stirling (pools panel verdict: score draw); Dumbarton v Airdrie (pools panel verdict: away win). Dunfermline v St Mirren (pools panel verdict: home win); Falkirk v Stenhousemuir (pools panel verdict: home win); Greenock Morton v Montrose (pools panel verdict: home win): Hamilton v St Johnstone (pools panel verdict: away win); Hearts v Partick (pools panel verdict score draw)

Yesterday

WHITEHALL W (0) 0 **CELTIC** (1) 3
15,000 Van Hooijdonk 39, 81
Donnelly 76

(at Easter Road, Edinburgh)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

AYR (0) 0 **STRANRAER** (0) 0
1,919

THIRD DIVISION

POSTPONED: Brechin v Arbroath; Cowdenbeath v Livingston; East Stirling v Alloa

CONFERENCE

POSTPONED: Bath v Kidderminster (pools panel verdict: score draw), Bromsgrove v Morecambe (pools panel verdict: home win); Dagenham and Redbridge v Runcorn (pools panel verdict: away win); Dover v Altrincham (pools panel verdict: away win); Gateshead v Woking (pools panel verdict: away win); Hednesford v Stevenage (pools panel verdict: home win); Northwich v Kettering (pools panel verdict: home win): Southport v Slough (pools panel verdict: home win); Stalybridge v Farnborough (pools panel verdict: away win); Telford v Halifax (pools panel verdict: no score draw); Welling v Macclesfield (pools panel verdict away win)

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclesfield	25	9	2	2	19	10	7	2	3	22	18	52
2 Stevenage	23	7	3	2	30	12	7	3	1	26	13	48
3 Woking	22	8	2	0	21	5	6	1	5	24	23	45
4 Hednesford	23	6	2	4	20	13	8	0	3	21	10	44
5 Southport	24	6	3	3	25	13	6	2	4	26	23	41
6 Kidderminster	26	8	2	3	25	15	4	3	6	23	25	41
7 Gateshead	25	5	5	2	15	13	6	2	5	16	14	40
8 Farnborough	23	5	4	2	18	9	5	4	3	18	18	38
9 Bromsgrove	27	7	4	2	23	13	2	6	6	16	26	37
10 Northwich	24	6	1	5	22	21	4	5	3	20	19	36
11 Halifax	26	8	2	4	22	14	2	4	6	9	17	36
12 Kettering	27	7	4	2	28	14	2	3	9	21	38	34
13 Morecambe	23	9	0	4	34	23	1	3	6	11	23	33
14 Slough	25	2	4	7	23	31	7	0	5	18	16	31
15 Stalybridge	25	5	2	6	17	22	3	3	6	12	14	29
16 Welling	24	4	4	4	16	15	2	4	6	14	19	26
17 Altrincham	25	4	4	5	21	22	2	4	6	10	17	26
18 Bath	26	4	1	6	11	18	3	3	9	11	24	25
19 Dover	25	5	0	7	16	20	1	5	7	14	25	23
20 Runcorn	24	4	3	4	15	21	2	2	9	16	31	23
21 Telford	21	3	4	3	14	13	2	1	8	9	20	20
22 Dag & Red	27	3	6	6	20	26	1	2	9	6	22	20

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	45	90	good	powder	good	sun	-5	27/1
	(Great skiing on new snow: sunny skies but cold)							
Saalbach	25	55	fair	crust	art	fine	2	27/1
	(Good skiing available after dusting of new snow)							
Schladming	22	42	fair	crust	art	cloud	2	28/1
	(Dusting of new snow freshening pistes: good skiing)							
Söll	10	40	good	varied	closed	fair	4	27/1
	(Pistes much better after recent snow)							
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	70	220	good	varied	good	cloud	-1	25/1
	(Good piste skiing but odd thin spot on busy runs)							
Avoriaz	80	120	hard	varied	fair	cloud	-2	26/1
	(Hard-packed snow on all pistes: odd rocky patch)							
Flaine	20	145	fair	varied	patchy	cloud	-3	23/1
	(Pistes hard with some icy patches: worn low down)							
Tignes	75	130	good	heavy	good	cloud	-8	25/1
	(Good skiing in most areas. mixed visibility)							
Val d'Isère	60	110	good	varied	icy	cloud	1	25/1
	(Good piste skiing in most areas: icy/worn low down)							
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	10	75	fair	varied	icy	sun	3	25/1
	(Upper pistes reasonably good: man-made snow low down)							
Mürren	15	120	fair	varied	worn	sun	-3	7/1
	(High runs all good: lower slopes worn but skiable)							
Wengen	5	30	hard	crusty	closed	sun	1	7/1
	(Top pistes enjoyable. snow machines in use)							
Zermatt	25	135	good	varied	fair	sun	-3	25/1
	(Good skiing on most open pistes: icy low down)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes. U - upper; art - artificial.

Tony Yeboah, left, the Leeds United striker, tussles with Zaire's Roger Hitoto during Ghana's 1-0 quarter-final victory in the African Nations' Cup tie at Port Elizabeth yesterday. Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

NON-LEAGUE

UNIBOND

Premier division: Postponed: Bishop Auckland v Bamber Bridge; Chorley v Accrington Stanley; Colwyn Bay v Gainsborough, Frickley v Knowsley; Guiseley v Emley; Hyde v Blyth Spartans; Leek v Spennymoor; Marine v Buxton; Matlock v Witton; Winsford v Barrow.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bamber Bridge	27	15	9	3	56	28	54
Hyde Utd	28	14	6	8	55	24	48
Barrow	25	13	8	4	49	26	47
Guiseley	27	13	7	7	41	29	46
Boston Utd	28	14	3	11	50	36	45
Gainsborough	25	12	8	5	37	24	44
Witton Alb	26	13	4	9	42	38	43
Emley	*25*	*12*	*4*	*9*	*37*	*30*	*40*
Leek Town	27	8	10	9	37	32	34
Spennymoor	25	8	10	7	36	32	34
* Acc Stanley	26	9	9	8	38	37	33
B Auckland	25	9	6	10	33	37	33
Chorley	26	9	5	11	43	43	32
Blyth Sp	23	8	7	8	38	36	31
Knowsley	28	9	3	16	39	61	30
Marine	23	7	8	8	24	28	29
Winsford Utd	23	6	8	9	23	38	26
Colwyn Bay	23	4	11	8	20	31	23
* Frickley	25	6	8	11	34	49	23
Droylsden	26	6	5	15	37	71	23
Buxton	27	4	8	15	24	55	20
Matlock	25	4	7	14	40	52	19

* 3 points deducted

First division: Postponed: Alfreton v Netherfield; Curzon Ashton v Workington; Farsley Celtic v Atherton LR; Fleetwood v Great Harwood; Gretna v Bradford Park Avenue, Harrogate Town v Warrington; Leigh v Lancaster; Lincoln United v Whitley Bay; Radcliffe v Eastwood Town, Worksop v Ashton United

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Postponed: Atherstone v Burton; Baldock v Cambridge City; Crawley v Gresley; Dorchester v Halesowen; Gravesend and Northfl v Gloucester; Ilkeston v Chelmsford; Newport AFC v Cheltenham; Salisbury v Rushden and Diamonds; Stafford v Hastings; Sudbury v Worcester; VS Rugby v Merthyr

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rushden & D	23	18	4	1	63	21	58
Gloucester	24	14	4	6	49	29	46
Halesowen	22	13	6	3	42	27	45
Cheltenham	24	14	3	7	48	36	45
Worcester	22	12	5	5	39	25	41
Gresley	23	11	5	7	35	29	38
Merthyr	24	12	2	10	44	42	38
Hastings	24	10	7	7	47	37	37
Burton	24	9	7	8	36	33	34
Chelmsford	24	8	7	8	28	31	34
Baldock	25	8	8	9	38	33	32
Cambridge	24	8	5	10	35	37	32
Newport AFC	21	8	5	8	29	31	29
Crawley	24	6	10	8	32	36	28
Salisbury	22	8	3	11	31	38	27
Gravesend & N	20	7	4	9	33	36	25
Sudbury	20	6	5	9	32	34	23
Atherstone	22	5	6	11	36	48	21
Dorchester	21	5	4	12	33	37	19
VS Rugby	23	4	5	14	24	52	17
Ilkeston	23	4	5	14	29	59	17
Stafford	23	3	2	18	33	64	11

Midland division: Postponed: Bedworth v Stourbridge; Bridgnorth v Solihull; Bury Town v Nuneaton, Dudley Town v Buckingham Town. Evesham v Corby; Hinckley v RC Warwick; Kings Lynn v Moor Green; Leicester United v Sutton Coldfield; Paget v Bilston; Redditch v Grantham; Rothwell v Tamworth. Southern division: Havant 0 Braintree 2. Postponed: Ashford v Forest Green, Cinderford v Bashley, Fleet v Trowbridge; Margate v Fareham, Newport IOW v Erith and Belvedere, Waterlooville v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Sittingbourne; Witney v Tonbridge Angels; Yate v Fisher 93.

ICIS

Premier division: Postponed: Aylesbury v Molesey; Boreham Wood v Hendon; Carshalton v Bromley; Chertsey v Worthing; Enfield v Purfleet; Grays v Yeovil; Hayes v Sutton United; Hitchin v Yeading; Kingstonian v Harrow; St Albans v Dulwich

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Enfield	23	15	3	5	44	16	48
Dulwich	22	14	5	3	50	28	47
Boreham Wood	22	13	5	4	36	17	44
Yeovil	23	13	4	6	52	32	43
Carshalton	21	13	4	4	38	27	43
St Albans	23	11	7	5	41	20	40
Kingstonian	23	11	7	5	35	18	40
Harrow	22	11	4	7	39	31	37
Hayes	22	9	9	4	32	19	36
Aylesbury	21	9	7	5	34	23	34
Sutton	22	8	8	6	40	30	32
Chertsey	23	9	3	11	28	37	30
B Stortford	22	7	7	8	29	28	28
Hitchin	21	7	5	9	21	31	26
Yeading	24	5	9	10	23	34	24
Grays	21	4	7	10	27	36	19
Worthing	23	4	8	13	26	51	18
Walton & H	21	5	2	14	21	40	17
Molesey	22	4	3	15	19	48	15
Hendon	20	3	5	12	16	38	14
Bromley	21	3	4	14	18	51	13
Purfleet	18	2	6	10	19	35	12

First division: Postponed: Abingdon Town v Chesham; Berkhamsted v Barking; Heybridge Swifts v Basingstoke; Leyton Pennant v Whyteleafe, Maidenhead United v Uxbridge; Staines v Billericay; Thame v Bognor Regis; Wembley v Tooting and Mitcham; Wokingham v Marlow. Yesterday: Oxford City 1 Aldershot Town 3. Second division: Hampton 0 Collier Row 0. Postponed: Banstead v Witham; Bedford Town v Wivenhoe; Bracknell v Chalfont St Peter; Croydon v Ware; Dorking v Cheshunt; Edgware v Hemel Hempstead; Egham v Hungerford; Leatherhead v Canvey Island; Metropolitan Police v Tilbury. Third division: Postponed: Aveley v Tring; Cove v Kingsbury; Flackwell Heath v Epsom and Ewell; Harefield v East Thurrock; Harlow v Clapton; Hertford v Wealdstone; Lewes v Hornchurch; Northwood v Windsor and Eton; Southall v Camberley; Wingate v Horsham.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Blackpool Rovers v Prescot; Bootle v Darwen; Burscough v Trafford; Clitheroe v Salford; Flixton v Nantwich; Glossop North End v Chadderton; Holker Old Boys v Rossendale; Kidsgrove v Eastwood Hanley; Mossley v Newcastle Town, Penrith v Skelmersdale; St Helens v Maine Road.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Armthorpe Welfare v Goole; Denaby v Belper Town; Glasshoughton Welfare v Hallam; Hucknall v Pickering; Liversedge v Ashfield; Maltby MW v Stocksbridge PS; North Ferriby v Ossett Town; Ossett Albion v Arnold; Sheffield v Brigg; Thackley v Hatfield Main.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 0 Fraserburgh 5; Cove 3 Forres Mechanics 1: Fort William 2 Nairn County 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 2 Portsmouth 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Billingham Synthonia v Dunston Federation; Chester-le-Street v Guisborough; Eppleton CW v Consett; Ferryhill v Bedlington; Murton v Whitby; Peterlee v Stockton; RTM Newcastle v Shildon; Seaham Red Star v West Auckland; Tow Law v Crook; Whickham v Durham.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 5 Bristol Manor Farm 1; Mangotsfield 6 Crediton 0. Postponed: Chippenham v Barnstaple; Frome v Brislington; Paulton v Elmore; Taunton v Tiverton, Torrington v Calne; Westbury v Bridport

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Banbury v Tuffley; Burnham v Fairford; Cirencester v Swindon Supermarine; Didcot v North Leigh, Endsleigh v Almondsbury; Highworth v Carterton; Kintbury v Brackley; Shortwood v Bicester.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Clacton v Wisbech; Great Yarmouth v Felixstowe, Haverhill v Watton; Lowestoft v Sudbury; March v Sudbury; Newmarket v Harwich and Parkeston; Wroxham v Hadleigh.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finals: Postponed: Diss v Tiptree; Fakenham v Ely; Halstead v Warboys; Woodbridge v Stowmarket.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 1 Brockenhurst 2; BAT 1 Andover 1. Postponed: Lymington v Swanage and Herston; Christchurch v Thatcham; East Cowes v Bournemouth; Petersfield v Aerostructures; Ryde Sports v Bemerton Heath Harlequins; Wimborne v Eastleigh.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Latymer v Isleworthians; Glyn v Clapham; Cardinal Manning v Hamptonians; Danes v Aloysians

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Arsenal v Charlton Athletic; Cambridge United v Chelsea. Millwall v Norwich City; Portsmouth v Ipswich Town; Queens Park Rangers v Southend United. Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham; Watford v Gillingham; West Ham United v Leyton Orient. Second division: Postponed: AFC Bournemouth v Barnet; Colchester United v Tottenham Hotspur; Oxford United v Luton Town; Reading v Crystal Palace; Wimbledon v Brentford; Wycombe Wanderers v Southampton.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Postponed: Kew Association v Winchmore Hill; South Bank Poly v Norsemen; East Barnet OG v Nat West Bank; Old Esthameians v Crouch End Vampires; Midland Bank v Lloyds Bank; Old Latymerians v Old Bromleians; Old Parmiterians v Old Parkonians; Old Stationers v Alexandra Park; Alleyn OB v Merton; Old Salesians v Southgate Olympic; Cuaco v Brentham; Reigate Priory v Old Westminster Citizens; Broomfield v Ibis.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Albanian v Grammarians; Nottsborough v Parkfield, Owens v Hale End; Southgate County v Witan.

OVERSEAS

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: Quarter-final: Port Elizabeth: Ghana 1 Zaire 0. Bloemfontein: Zambia 3 Egypt 1

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Lierse 2 Ghent 3; Seraing 2 Mechelen 1; Sint-Truiden 0 Anderlecht 5; Charleroi 0 Harelbeke 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Paris Saint-Germain 2 Cannes 1; Auxerre 1 Le Havre 0; Rennes 2 Lens 1; Lille 0 Monaco 0; Bastia 0 Guingamp 1; Nice 1 Montpellier 2; Martigues 2 Strasbourg 0; Bordeaux 3 Gueugnon 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Paris SG	25	14	9	2	48	20	51
Auxerre	25	14	3	8	41	23	45
Metz	24	12	8	4	24	16	44
Lens	25	10	12	3	27	16	42
Monaco	25	11	7	7	37	27	40
Guingamp	25	10	9	6	21	17	39
Montpellier	25	10	7	8	34	30	37
Nantes	24	9	9	6	27	25	36
Rennes	25	9	9	7	29	29	36
Bastia	25	10	5	10	33	31	35
Strasbourg	25	8	9	8	32	26	33
Nice	25	9	5	11	27	28	32
Bordeaux	25	8	4	13	27	35	28
Le Havre	25	7	7	11	21	32	28
Lyon	24	5	12	7	25	28	27
Saint-Etienne	24	5	10	9	27	38	25
Lille	25	5	9	11	18	32	24
Cannes	25	6	5	14	27	39	23
Gueugnon	25	4	10	11	17	32	22
Martigues	25	6	3	16	20	38	21

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta 2 Roma 1; Bari 2 Torino 2; Inter Milan 1 Parma 1; Juventus 2 Piacenza 0, Lazio 4 Cagliari 0; Padova 4 Napoli 2; Sampdoria 2 Cremonese 0; Udinese 0 Milan 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AC Milan	19	11	7	1	29	12	40
Fiorentina	18	11	3	4	33	19	36
Parma	19	9	8	2	30	17	35
Juventus	19	9	5	5	29	19	32
Lazio	19	8	5	6	36	21	29
Roma	19	7	7	5	24	18	28
Inter Milan	19	6	8	5	24	17	26
Napoli	19	6	8	5	20	21	26
Vicenza	18	6	7	5	17	16	25
Sampdoria	19	6	7	6	29	29	25
Udinese	19	7	4	8	22	28	25
Atalanta	19	7	4	8	23	30	25
Cagliari	19	7	2	10	17	29	23
Piacenza	19	5	4	10	20	35	19
Padova	19	5	3	11	21	31	18
Torino	19	3	9	7	19	31	18
Bari	19	4	5	10	27	40	17
Cremonese	19	2	6	11	21	30	12

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Guimaraes 2 Benfica 4; Leca 1 Felgueiras 0; Belenenses 1 Campomaiorense 0 (abandoned 56 minutes - rain)

SPANISH LEAGUE: Salamanca 0 Deportivo La Coruna 5; Oviedo 1 Real Madrid 2; Betis 0 Rayo Vallecano 0; Barcelona 3 Zaragoza 1; Valencia 4 Merida 1; Compostela 1 Valladolid 3; Albacete 0 Espanyol 0; Real Sociedad 1 Sevilla 0; Racing de Santander 1 Sporting de Gijon 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Atletico Madrid	23	16	4	3	41	11	52
Espanyol	23	13	6	4	35	18	45
Barcelona	23	12	7	4	41	19	43
Compostela	23	13	4	6	30	25	43
Valencia	23	13	3	7	41	29	42
Deportivo	24	11	5	8	41	20	38
Betis	23	9	10	4	33	25	37
Real Madrid	23	10	6	7	43	31	36
Tenerife	23	9	8	6	38	37	35
Celta	23	8	7	8	24	26	31
Real Sociedad	23	8	6	9	30	34	30
Athletic Bilbao	23	7	8	8	26	31	29
Sporting Gijon	23	8	3	12	30	32	27
Zaragoza	23	6	8	9	22	30	26
Oviedo	23	6	8	9	24	33	26
Merida	23	4	11	8	18	28	23
Sevilla	23	5	8	10	23	37	23
Rayo Vallecano	23	6	5	12	26	41	23
Salamanca	24	5	7	12	34	43	22
Albacete	23	5	7	11	34	47	22
R Santander	23	5	7	11	24	42	22
Valladolid	23	2	8	13	26	45	14

F.A. CARLING PREMIERSHIP

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Newcastle	23	12	0	0	28	6	5	3	3	17	13	54	+26
2 Man Utd	24	8	4	0	24	9	5	2	5	18	18	45	+15
3 Liverpool	23	9	2	1	32	8	3	4	4	14	13	42	+25
4 Tottenham	24	6	3	3	17	12	5	5	2	16	12	41	+9
5 Aston Villa	22	6	3	1	16	7	5	3	4	13	9	39	+13
6 Blackburn	24	10	1	1	32	8	1	4	7	5	18	38	+11
7 Arsenal	24	6	4	2	20	12	4	3	5	12	12	37	+8
8 Nottm For	23	7	4	0	19	8	2	6	4	14	24	37	+1
9 Everton	24	6	3	3	21	12	4	3	5	14	14	36	+9
10 Chelsea	24	5	5	2	15	12	4	4	4	10	13	36	0
11 Leeds	23	7	2	3	16	10	3	3	5	14	22	35	-2
12 Middlesbro	24	7	2	3	20	12	2	4	6	6	14	33	0
13 Sheff Wed	23	4	4	4	21	19	2	4	5	12	17	26	-3
14 Wimbledon	24	3	4	5	17	20	3	2	7	16	26	24	-13
15 Soton	23	4	4	3	11	10	1	4	7	11	23	23	-11
16 West Ham	22	3	3	4	10	14	3	2	7	12	19	23	-11
17 Coventry	23	3	4	5	16	19	1	4	6	13	26	20	-16
18 Man City	23	4	4	4	8	9	1	1	9	5	24	20	-20
19 QPR	24	3	3	6	12	19	2	0	10	6	17	18	-18
20 Bolton	24	3	3	6	9	16	0	1	11	14	30	13	-23

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Derby	27	9	4	1	28	11	5	4	4	17	19	50	45
2 Charlton	26	6	5	2	21	15	6	4	3	18	13	45	39
3 Huddersfld	28	8	3	3	25	15	3	6	5	12	17	42	37
4 Sunderland	25	7	3	2	20	8	4	6	3	11	12	42	31
5 Southend	27	8	4	2	19	13	3	4	6	12	19	41	31
6 Millwall	28	4	5	6	14	17	6	5	2	16	17	40	30
7 Leicester	26	4	4	4	18	18	6	5	3	22	18	39	40
8 Stoke	27	5	5	3	16	10	5	4	5	21	23	39	37
9 Norwich	28	5	5	4	16	14	5	3	6	23	20	38	39
10 Birmingham	26	6	5	2	22	16	4	3	6	15	20	38	37
11 Ipswich	26	7	4	3	30	20	2	6	4	17	17	37	47
12 Barnsley	27	6	5	2	18	16	3	5	6	17	26	37	35
13 Grimsby	27	5	7	2	17	13	4	3	6	15	20	37	32
14 Tranmere	25	6	4	3	24	14	3	3	6	12	15	34	36
15 C Palace	25	2	6	3	13	15	6	4	4	19	18	34	32
16 Portsmouth	29	6	4	4	26	19	2	5	8	19	28	33	45
17 Oldham	26	5	5	3	21	13	2	6	5	13	16	32	34
18 Reading	26	6	3	4	19	17	1	7	5	13	19	31	32
19 Port Vale	27	3	4	6	16	20	4	5	5	17	20	30	33
20 Wolves	26	4	6	4	18	18	2	4	6	14	19	28	32
21 West Brom	26	5	2	6	15	16	2	2	9	14	29	25	29
22 Watford	25	3	5	4	15	13	2	5	6	13	19	25	28
23 Luton	25	3	4	6	18	21	3	3	6	5	16	25	23
24 Sheff Utd	26	3	4	6	16	20	2	4	7	17	25	23	33

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Swindon	25	7	5	1	22	7	7	3	2	20	10	50	42
2 Crewe	24	9	2	1	28	10	5	3	4	20	16	47	46
3 Blackpool	25	7	3	2	21	10	5	5	3	18	15	44	39
4 Notts Co	23	7	2	3	20	11	5	5	1	15	8	43	35
5 Chesterfld	24	8	3	1	23	9	3	4	5	13	16	40	36
6 Burnley	24	7	5	1	26	15	3	3	5	13	16	38	39
7 Bournemth	26	8	3	3	21	15	3	2	7	12	21	38	33
8 Bradford	26	7	2	3	19	16	4	2	8	17	26	37	36
9 Shrewsbury	26	6	2	5	20	15	5	2	6	15	20	37	35
10 Wrexham	25	6	6	1	25	14	2	6	4	10	13	36	35
11 Wycombe	25	4	7	1	15	11	4	5	4	17	15	36	32
12 Bristol R	26	4	3	6	15	21	5	5	3	15	15	35	30
13 Walsall	24	4	6	2	17	11	5	2	5	11	7	35	28
14 Oxford Utd	24	9	1	2	24	10	0	6	6	7	15	34	31
15 Stockport	26	3	6	4	13	12	5	3	5	19	17	33	32
16 Rotherham	26	7	4	3	22	15	1	3	8	10	24	31	32
17 Bristol City	27	5	4	4	13	12	2	6	6	12	25	31	25
18 Peterboro	24	5	3	4	21	15	2	5	5	13	23	29	34
19 Carlisle	26	4	5	3	16	12	1	5	8	15	28	25	31
20 York	24	4	3	5	14	15	3	1	8	13	24	25	27
21 Swansea	25	3	6	3	16	15	2	3	8	10	27	24	26
22 Brentford	24	6	1	5	12	10	0	5	7	9	21	24	21
23 Brighton	26	3	3	7	12	19	3	2	8	11	21	23	23
24 Hull	25	1	5	6	11	22	1	4	8	7	21	15	16

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Gillingham	25	10	1	1	21	3	4	6	3	12	7	49	33
2 Preston	25	7	5	1	34	13	4	7	1	17	10	45	51
3 Chester	26	6	4	2	24	14	6	4	4	20	17	44	44
4 Doncaster	25	8	3	1	17	9	4	2	7	14	23	41	31
5 Colchester	25	7	3	2	22	13	3	7	3	16	17	40	38
6 Darlington	25	4	4	5	13	13	6	5	1	15	11	39	28
7 Plymouth	26	7	4	3	24	15	3	4	5	17	17	38	41
8 Bury	25	4	5	5	11	16	5	4	2	18	15	36	29
9 Wigan	25	8	2	3	19	15	1	6	5	14	17	35	33
10 Northmptn	25	4	5	3	17	12	5	2	6	11	13	34	28
11 Cambridge	26	5	5	3	22	16	4	1	8	18	29	33	40
12 Rochdale	25	4	4	3	20	15	5	2	7	15	15	33	35
13 Scunthorpe	24	4	4	3	15	13	4	4	5	21	18	32	36
14 Hereford	24	4	4	4	23	18	3	6	3	12	12	31	35
15 L Orient	27	7	2	4	17	12	1	5	8	9	24	31	26
16 Mansfield	26	3	7	4	16	21	3	5	4	18	23	30	34
17 Exeter	26	4	5	3	12	12	2	7	5	15	19	30	27
18 Barnet	26	4	5	4	15	17	2	7	4	12	15	30	27
19 Hartlepool	24	4	7	1	16	12	3	1	8	10	22	29	26
20 Cardiff	26	4	4	5	10	8	3	4	6	14	22	29	24
21 Fulham	24	5	6	1	22	13	0	5	7	7	20	26	29
22 Scarboro	26	3	8	3	15	17	2	3	7	12	20	26	27
23 Lincoln	25	3	5	5	13	16	3	3	6	11	22	26	24
24 Torquay	25	3	3	7	12	25	0	5	7	10	22	17	22

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Rangers	24	9	2	2	32	10	8	3	0	23	3	56	+42
2 Celtic	24	6	4	1	16	9	10	3	0	27	9	55	+25
3 Aberdeen	23	6	0	5	20	12	4	4	4	14	15	34	+7
4 Hearts	24	7	1	4	24	17	3	3	6	13	20	34	0
5 Hibernian	24	5	3	4	19	19	4	3	5	14	21	33	-7
6 Raith	23	5	4	4	15	12	3	1	6	10	23	29	-10
7 Kilmarnck	24	5	4	3	20	14	2	2	8	9	23	27	-8
8 Partick	24	3	4	5	8	15	3	1	8	9	19	23	-17
9 Motherwll	24	2	4	5	7	12	1	6	6	7	16	19	-14
10 Falkirk	24	3	2	7	9	16	2	2	8	10	21	19	-18

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Dundee Utd	24	7	3	2	28	13	6	4	2	16	12	46	+19
2 G Morton	22	6	1	3	18	10	7	2	3	20	14	42	+14
3 Dunfermline	21	7	1	2	21	10	6	1	4	20	11	41	+20
4 Dundee	24	2	5	5	14	18	9	2	1	24	12	40	+8
5 St Johnstn	23	7	4	2	22	9	3	2	5	11	14	36	+10
6 Airdrie	23	2	4	5	12	17	5	4	3	15	14	29	-4
7 St Mirren	23	3	2	5	11	18	4	5	4	16	16	28	-7
8 Clydebank	23	4	4	4	12	13	2	3	6	14	22	25	-9
9 Hamilton	23	3	2	7	15	19	1	3	7	7	17	17	-14
10 Dumbarton	22	2	1	9	9	25	1	1	8	9	30	11	-37

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Stirling	22	7	3	1	21	8	6	4	1	27	12	46	+28
2 East Fife	21	4	3	2	11	10	10	1	1	18	6	46	+13
3 Stenhsmuir	22	8	3	2	22	11	4	2	5	17	18	35	+10
4 Berwick	21	4	4	2	16	8	5	1	5	20	16	32	+12
5 Stranraer	22	4	6	1	13	8	1	7	3	12	18	28	-1
6 Forfar	21	5	2	5	10	21	2	3	4	10	14	26	-15
7 Clyde	20	3	2	5	15	12	2	6	2	6	6	23	+3
8 Ayr	21	2	3	5	9	13	3	4	4	10	13	22	-7
9 Queen Of S	20	2	5	5	17	27	1	3	4	9	11	17	-12
10 Montrose	22	2	2	6	11	19	0	2	10	8	31	10	-31

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Brechin	21	8	2	2	19	6	3	4	2	8	6	39	+15
2 Caley This	21	4	4	2	22	14	6	3	2	25	7	37	+26
3 Livingston	20	4	3	4	10	8	7	1	1	15	5	37	+12
4 Ross Co	21	5	6	0	23	10	3	4	3	12	13	34	+12
5 Arbroath	21	4	4	2	15	13	5	3	3	13	14	34	+1
6 Cowdenbth	21	5	2	4	17	14	3	1	6	15	23	27	-5
7 Queen's Pk	22	5	4	3	16	10	1	2	7	8	19	24	-5
8 East Stirling	21	2	1	6	14	21	3	4	5	19	22	20	-10
9 Alloa	21	3	1	6	10	21	1	6	4	8	14	19	-17
10 Albion	21	3	1	5	14	17	2	0	10	11	37	16	-29

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1

30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1

FORECAST: Telephone claims for 23 and 24 points. dividend forecast is very good with 9 score draws and 6 no-score draws.

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هكذا من الأمل

A first for Russia as Bonaly is denied sixth title

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN SOFIA

SOMETHING *special* was needed to lift the depression hanging over British observers of the women's final in the European figure skating championships here on Saturday. A Union flag hanging over us from the roof of the Winter Sports Hall served only to emphasise the sense of isolation as 13 other countries competed for the title and, for the first time, a prize of $20,000 [about £13,000].

France, among others, had a full quota of three skaters in spite of a weakened team because of illness and injury. But Stephanie Main, the British champion, was absent after a nightmare experience in the previous day's short programme.

Slutskaya: superb routine

Then that "something special" happened, and the spirits were unexpectedly lifted by a performance of charm and expertise which transcended national preference and prejudice.

It came in the delightful shape of Irina Slutskaya, an effervescent Muscovite who is still 12 days short of her seventeenth birthday. She became the first skater *from Russia, whether* as a sovereign state or a part of the Soviet Union, to win the championship since it was first instituted in *1930.*

The homour had eluded even Oksana Baiul, who won both world and Olympic gold medals in recent years but under the Ukrainian banner. Slutskaya's success brought to an end a sequence of five successive victories by Surya Bonaly, who was, consequently, denied the achievement of six titles won by Sonja Henie (1931-36) and Katarina Witt (1983-88).

It has been a poor season for the Frenchwoman, so much so that she was persuaded to change her programme only a few weeks ago and was, therefore, not as fully prepared as she will hope to be for the world championships, in Canada in March. Even so, for most judges, there was a chasm between her frantic, gymnastic approach and the fresh, free*flowing style of Slutskaya.*

The Russian even countered Bonaly's main weapon, with six triple jumps out of six, whereas the *Frenchwoman,* 22, failed badly with a seventh, a toe loop. Moreover, she warns us, she still has a secret to unleash at the appropriate *moment.*

Given the money now on offer to skaters in a sport where the word "amateur" no longer exists, it is likely *that* Slutskaya will remain in competition for many years to come.

Youngsters join Oakes in providing hope for Olympics

Promise of youth puts Britain on right track

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE is something about Olympic year that lifts the *spirit of youth. Not since* Steve Smith, David Grindley and Curtis Robb burst into the limelight in 1992 has British athletics appeared as fresh*faced as it did in the Bupa* indoor international against Russia in Birmingham on Saturday.

Led by a British indoor polevault *record from* Nick Buckfield and a stunning improvement over 60 metres by Jason Gardener, the Great Britain youngsters declined to stand back and let Judy Oakes have centre stage to herself. Oakes, 37, won the shot with 18.63 metres, her best mark indoors for years, on the day *when she overtook Verona* Elder's record number of appearances for Britain.

Oakes had a British vest on for the 73rd time. In her first *international, at 17, she fin*ished last, which should at least be comforting to Lesley Owusu who, at 17 was the youngest member of the Great *Britain* team, finished last in the 400 metres. Her time will come, according to Martin Watkins, her coach, who has steered Mark Richardson to a European Cup one-lap title and has Mark Hylton on course, at 19, to become the senior European indoor 400 metres champion.

Although Hylton's victory at Birmingham, in 46.96sec, was nothing more than confirmation of potential, Gardener's 6.55sec for 60 metres was a bolt from the blue. It was precisely the time that Bruny Surin, the world indoor champion, ran in Sindelfingen, *Germany, on Saturday and* one which suggests that Britain may have found someone to continue its long line of European indoor 60 metres champions.

The past three winners have been Linford Christie (1990), Jason Livingston (1992) and Colin Jackson (1994). Gardener's previous best was 6.73 and David Lease, his coach, said: "If it had been 6.62/6.63, I would have been more than happy. But 6.55 rattles a lot of cages and puts the whole thing *into a new perspective. That* was five hundredths of a second we did not anticipate."

Gardener, 20, showed due respect for Christie, declining *to offer a prediction as to* whether he was ready to take the Olympic champion's scalp indoors. Christie will not be *running in the European indoor championships but is* booked for the Ricoh Tour meeting in Birmingham on February 10 and the temptation for Gardener to race him *there may prove irresistible.*

Lease appears to have guided Gardener intelligently through the difficult transition from junior to senior territory. *Second in the 100 metres at the* 1994 world junior championships, Gardener entered the senior ranks last summer and performed well enough to be selected for the relay team at the world championships in Gothenburg. "We said it was going to be a two-year project because we know the problems of stepping into the seniors," Lease explained.

Most of Britain's best sprinters hail from London but Gardener is an exception, coming from Bath. "No indoor facilities is the first disadvantage he has had to overcome," Lease said.

Rare, too, is the sight of a British pole vaulter defeating a Russian, but 22-year-old Buckfield's clearance of 5.50 metres not only beat the 15-year British indoor record, it split the Russian pair.

While one British vaulter was in the foreground, there were two in the background. *Lease, though he trains Gar*dener, is Britain's senior national pole vault coach. Chris Bowman, coach to Britain's new 1,500 metres revelation, *Anthony Whiteman, is a vault*er in the British League.

Whiteman, 24, became Britain's sixth fastest indoor 1,500 metres man with no opposition and no pacemaker. He recorded 3min 39.47sec, enough, perhaps, to make him change his mind on the question of whether to train with *Noureddine Morceli,* the world champion and world record-holder.

ANDREW REDINGTON/ALLSPORT

Buckfield, who set a British indoor record for the pole vault in Birmingham

John Bicourt, Whiteman's manager, had made mention *to him of such an opportunity.* "I told John that I did not think I was good enough to do that yet, that he would just blow me away," Whiteman said. *"John said that you have got to* think about how good you could become. Maybe now I have got to rethink."

Two young British women also excelled. Michelle Dunkley, barely 18, equalled the British junior high jump record with 1.86 metres and Catherine Murphy, 20, re*corded the fifth fastest 200* metres by a British woman, in 23.46sec, though neither won her event. Dunkley is from Kettering but Murphy is from *all over the place:* she was born in Sheffield, runs for Wales, lives in Hemel Hempstead and trains in London.

Putting it all on the line for shot at Atlanta

Shaun Pickering tells **David Powell** that he was happy to give up a lucrative career to pursue his goal and honour his famous father

How much would you pay to compete in the Olympics? It may be an experience that money cannot buy but Shaun Pickering knows how much it is worth to him. He has given up "one of the top five jobs in the world in sports marketing" to try to make Britain's Olympic team for the first time. Estimated salary loss: £100,000.

Pickering has been to most of the world's top sports occasions as manager of *events* and promotions for Canon: World Cup football, Ryder Cup golf, Wimbledon tennis, Formula One motor racing, even the summer and winter Olympic Games. "Canon is one of the top five blue-chip sponsors: I was responsible for £20 million a year," Pickering said. Now he *is responsble only for the* 315lbs he weighs as Britain's No 1 shot putter.

If the surname sounds familiar, so it should. The late Ron Pickering OBE, who shared commentary boxes with David Coleman for 25 years, who changed Lynn Davies from a triple jumper into an Olympic long jump champion, who was a national athletics coach for Wales, was Shaun's father. When Shaun says going to the Olympics as an athlete is a matter of "unfinished business", he is thinking not only of self-fulfilment but the memory of his father. "It is a combination of both," he said.

After Pickering's defeat of the Russians in the indoor international in Birmingham on Saturday, the decision to give up his job last February looks much less of a gamble. Aged 34, he set, as his father would have said, "a lifetime best" of 19.10 metres. The Olympic qualifying standard is 19.50 metres.

Under the British Athletic Federation pay scale, Pickering's putt is worth £200. "Last year I earned £50," he said. Not that he keeps his earnings from athletics. "In the five years since my father died, any money I have got from the sport has gone into the [Ron Pickering] memorial fund," Pickering said. The fund assists athletes, young and elite. "We had 17 people in the world championships team last year who received a grant," Pickering added.

Pickering: No 1 shot putter

Pickering rents a home in Los Angeles, where he transferred on February 13 — "an appropriate date, the date my dad died" — and he trains at UCLA, where John Godina, the world champion, trains. "The attitude is better for shot putting," Pickering said. "Also, we [in Britain] do not have the coaches who understand the technique."

Switching from a gliding to rotational technique has been pivotal in Pickering's improvement, allowing him to utilise his speed. How many 22-stone men can claim a 100 metres best of 11.0 seconds? Pickering can. "My power is good but my *strength* is not great," he said. "Athletically, I inherited it from my parents. My mum was an excellent athlete and my dad was a good athlete." Mum, as Jean Desforges, won a European long jump title in 1954.

"In terms of what I have lost in earnings, the cost of moving over to the States, and equipment, it will have cost me $200,000 by the end of this year, but if I get to the Olympics it will be worth it," Pickering said. His job with Canon remains open to him until September 1.

Pickering has appeared in only one international championships, the 1986 Commonwealth Games. "It helps now not travelling eight months of the year, running around the 50 sports events that we deal with," he said. "I am capable of throwing 20 metres and, importantly, 20 metres clean."

But how can we be sure he is not another druggie? Because he is the son of Ron Pickering, who never wasted a chance to speak out against drugs. "There is no way I could sully my father's reputation," he said.

Simpson from the spot puts QEGS through to cup final

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE first all-northern final of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup is looking an increasingly likely prospect. Although Bury Grammar School, perhaps the favourites *in this annual* football competition for independent schools, had to postpone their home game against Brentwood on Saturday, there *was an exciting encounter in* the other semi-final last Wednesday, which was won by Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn, with a penalty three *minutes* from the end of extra time.

It is indicative of the even standard that a large number of ties this season have gone *into extra time or been won* by a single goal. The popularity of the tournament, which runs all winter, has resulted in several schools that play rug*by during the autumn term* but football during the Lent term considering applying to enter next season.

It is odd that this competi*tion was only set up four years* ago. After all, the old boys of such leading public schools as Eton, Westminster, Charterhouse and Shrewsbury, es*tablished the Arthur Dunn* Cup in 1902-03, when their domination of, first, the FA Cup and then the Amateur Cup had been eroded.

However, it took 90 years for the independents to set up a similar competition. There is now a focus for the sport during the winter and the schools, which had traditionally not played friendly fixtures against each other, have a chance to experience new opposition.

The game last Wednesday between QEGS and Latymer Upper, from west London, was typical of both the tautness of atmosphere and generosity of spirit that have consistently marked the tournament. Playing with a strong and chilly wind behind them, QEGS, *who had beaten* St Edmund's (Canterbury), Winchester and Manchester Grammar School in the previous rounds, dominated the *flow in the first half.*

Some solid play, particularly by Ibrahim Taguri, the Latymer goalkeeper, and Talat El-Sherbiny and Carl *John, in central defence,* kept QEGS from scoring. Latymer came more into the game after half-time, when they had the benefit of the wind. However, John Haworth, the English independent schools goalkeeper, Simon Gough and Stephen Hopkinson were equally effective in the QEGS defence.

Frank McMorrow, the Latymer coach, said: "I felt QEGS controlled most of the game but *always* felt it was a match in which one goal might settle the result. If we have lacked any technical ability this year, we have *made up for it with a lot of* guts. I did not envisage getting this far in the competition, but our confidence has grown."

QEGS scored first in extra *time, when Michael Peterson* headed in a corner by Chris Connolly but, almost immediately, Latymer equalised with a superb 20-yard cross-shot by *Mark Smith.*

Just as McMorrow thought that, as in the previous round against Lancing, the match would go to a penalty shootout, *Michael Collins cut* through the Latymer defence. He was brought down by Smith for a penalty.

David Hopkinson, the *QEGS coach, said: "It was one* of those incidents that it depended on where you stood round the pitch whether you thought it was a penalty." It was perhaps as well that the referee, Roger Dilkes, is an official in the FA Carling Premiership. Ian Simpson converted the kick.

QEGS is a similar school to Latymer. Both have just over 1,000 pupils and offer both football and rugby during the winter. QEGS reached the quarter-finals last season, when they lost to St Bede's, Manchester, the eventual *winners.*

QEGS beat Bury 2-1 in the opening game of this season but Hopkinson will discount that result if the two Lanca*shire schools meet in the final* because neither team had started full training at that stage.

Two players who would *have certainly strenghened* the QEGS team even further are now with professional clubs: James Beattie with Blackburn Rovers and Daniel McNally with Bury.

Hopkinson said: "Initally when we lost them, there was a feeling of frustration. But once you get over that, you realise we must be doing something right here for boys to be taken on as professionals."

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Honourable duels too fast for the eye to follow

Ivo Tennant samples an evening of cut and thrust in Surrey's red wine district

Sabre fencing is one of the *fastest of all sports.* Given greater sponsorship, some media attention and a little luck, it could yet become one of the fastest growing. Participation, however, is a pipedream unless you possess the speed of a squash player, the mind of a chess strategist and can come up with frequent imperious Gallic gestures.

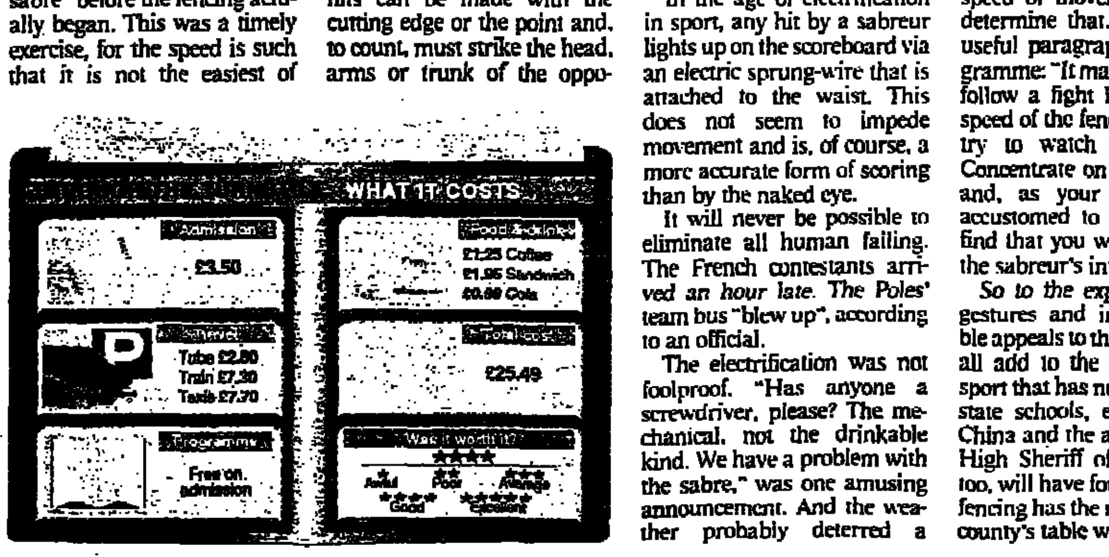
For the language of sabre fencing remains intrinsically French, even in mock-Tudor Surrey. It is a sport that reeks of tradition, of duels, of jousts, of the ancient universities. Besides, Frenchmen evidently still make for highly competent sabreurs: five of the eight quarter-finalists at the Corble Cup, staged in Guildford on Saturday, were from France. *They looked the part* because they were the part.

They are heirs to a noble tradition. The tapering blade was once a cold-blooded instrument. Sabres were rattled at any aggression from the foe. History books contain ac*counts of duels based on a* sense of honour. That still exists today.

There is a bond, too, between sabreurs and spectators, for sabres and all manner of kit were left lying indiscriminately around this large gymnasium, which is part of the Guildford Spectrum, a large sports complex. The centre incorporates a decent coffee bar, Café Select.

It is not a sport tainted by *any kind of grubbiness.* One reason for this is that the paltry rewards are all too visible and tangible. The prizegiving table, on which sat a burnished silver cup and a few bottles of "Surrey Red English table wine", looked to have been plucked from a village flower show. For Phillipe Delraieu, brought up among the Bordelais and a medal-winner at the 1988 Olympic Games, competing and win*ning have to be all.*

For the uninformed spectator, of whom there must have *been quite a few on Saturday,* there was "a demonstration of sabre" before the fencing actually began. This was a timely exercise, for the speed is such that it is not the easiest of sports to follow. Modern fenc*ing comprises three weapons:* sabre, foil and épée. In sabre, hits can be made with the cutting edge or the point and, to count, must strike the head, arms or trunk of the opponent's body. All these parts of the body, it should be added, are thoroughly protected. The masks are made of reinforced metal and the Kevlar jackets are apparently made of the *same material as bullet-proof* vests.



In the age of electrification in sport, any hit by a sabreur lights up on the scoreboard via an electric sprung-wire that is attached to the waist. This does not seem to impede movement and is, of course, a more accurate form of scoring than by the naked eye.

It will never be possible to eliminate all human failing. The French contestants arri*ved an hour late. The Poles'* team bus "blew up", according to an official.

The electrification was not foolproof. "Has anyone a screwdriver, please? The mechanical, not the drinkable kind. We have a problem with the sabre," was one amusing announcement. And the weather probably deterred a number of likely spectators, which, given a modest admission charge, was a shame.

Duels, or as they are more properly known, fights, last for a maximum of nine min*utes and 15 hits. It is a young* man's sport: the fitness and speed of movement required determine that. There was a useful paragraph in the programme: *"It may be difficult to* follow a fight because of the speed of the fencing, so do not try to watch both fencers. Concentrate on one at a time and, as your eyes become accustomed to the pace, you find that you will understand the sabreur's intentions."

So to the expansive Gallic gestures and incomprehensible appeals to the referee. They all add to the spectacle of a sport that has now extended to state schools, evening clubs, China and the attention of the High Sheriff of Surrey. She, too, will have found that sabre fencing has the measure of her county's table wine.

Inspired Welshman turns on heat in play-off showdown with Coltart

Woosnam shakes off injury jinx to snatch victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SINGAPORE

ONE of the accepted "truths" of professional golf was demonstrated to be a falsehood here yesterday. It had long been understood that Ian Woosnam could not play good golf in extreme heat. the excessive temperatures and humidity combining to sap him more than most of his energies and skills. That appears no longer to be the case, after Woosnam defeated Andrew Coltart in an exciting play-off to win the Johnnie Walker Classic at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

Woosnam had to summon all his wizardry, first to tie with Coltart on 16 under par after 72 holes and then to defeat the 25-year-old Scot on the third extra hole. All Woosnam's experience came to the fore when he needed it and his last two strokes were audacious and brave.

Since his putting has generally been the weakest part of his game — indeed, towards the end of last season he was occasionally seen using a broomhandle putter — it is worth noting that his conventional putter was the instrument that got Woosnam into the play-off and then won him the £100,000 prize — his first tournament victory for 16 months.

Coltart had finished ahead of Woosnam with a total of 16 under par after playing one of the rounds of his life. His 65, seven under par, contained five birdies in succession, seven in all. Coltart looks every inch a champion in the making. He has a firm swing, a good attitude and, perhaps best of all, plays at a commendable speed.

Three of his birdies came from accurate mid-iron shots. A five-iron ended four feet from the flag on the 8th. He hit a fine shot with a six-iron from a bunker on the 10th. Later, that same club nearly gave him his third hole in one in a few months. After holing in one at the Dunhill Cup and the Volvo Masters last season, his six iron on the 180-yard 14th just slid past the hole.

On the 18th, Coltart had to play his approach shot to the green from a fairway bunker, his left foot out of the sand, his right foot in it. He followed that with a deft pitch and run that caught the side of the hole, just missing what would have been an eighth birdie. Having set the target, Coltart signed his card and spent some time in the locker room, waiting to see whether Woosnam could catch him.

For a while, it looked as though Woosnam would not be able to do so, despite swinging more freely than for some time. Perspiration had poured off him all week, though. "I'm a Welsh boy," he said on Thursday. "I don't like the hot weather."

Coltart: right attitude

On the 18th, trailing by one stroke, he hit a three wood to a good position from which to attack and then struck a seven iron to 25 feet from the flag. The putt curled from right to left, but Woosnam was walking towards it knowing that it was accurate long before it plunged into the hole.

Coltart, having missed a chance to win on the first extra hole, showed great character on the second after pushing his second shot out to the right, where it ended almost up against a tree. Because there was an advertising hoarding in his way, however, he got relief and then holed from about 12 feet to halve with Woosnam and take the play-off to a third hole.

Woosnam pulled his drive left, one of only a couple of bad shots he hit all week. From a distance, it looked as though his best weapons would be a machete or a rifle. Then he saw that he had a narrow gap, no more than a few yards. Showing a Ballesteros-like ability to recover, Woosnam hit his second shot through the divide with enough spin to draw it back towards the green. It landed almost exactly where his second shot had ended on the 72nd hole. That he knew both line and pace was obvious when he sank the putt for victory.

There could hardly have been a greater contrast between the Woosnam we saw this last week and that dispirited, glum man who withdrew from events at the end of last season because of his troublesome back. Rested and refreshed, he was swinging more smoothly than for some time and putting well. He had even regained some of the distance he had lost when his back was at its worst.

Woosnam will fly on to Perth for the next event on the European Tour this week. He will be joined by Greg Norman, who finished 14 strokes behind, and John Daly.

The significance of Daly's play in the fourth round was that he was visibly trying, which he has not always done in the past. His final round of 71 meant that he finished eight under par, four strokes better than Bernhard Langer.

Woosnam's hand shoots up to signal victory in Singapore as his putt drops

Robertson aims to cope with wind of change

Edward Gorman reports from Miami on a Briton's quest for Olympic gold

Shirley Robertson was drinking ginger ale on the rocks, sitting on the verandah outside the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove, Miami, and she was not in a particularly good mood.

This was not easy to miss. Focused, dedicated, intense to the point of obsessive about her sailing, a bad day on the racecourse is always enough to put her on the defensive.

Earlier, she had been out in the sun — a million miles from the cold waters of Loch Ard, in Scotland, where her childhood sailing began — trying to read a shifting wind with 57 other women, single-handed in the Europe fleet at the Olympic Classes Regatta.

The tiny, 12-foot single-sail Europe class boats looked almost comically small against the imposing skyline of downtown Miami as they jostled up and down the course, cut out of a huge expanse of blue-green sea on Biscayne Bay.

Yet, close up, the racing was physical and aggressive as the women, fighting for supremacy in the only single-handed dinghy class in Olympic competition, converged on racing marks screaming at each other for space on the water.

Robertson did well enough in the first race, climbing from eleventh early on to finish a creditable sixth. But the afternoon brought uncharacteristically poor showings — 35th and 26th. Later, she summarised the day as "a sixth and two nightmares".

"It was really shifty and there were big changes in velocity," she said. "It was difficult to predict. You look up the beat and think it's going to go one way or the other, but there are no signs to help you. Normally I am quite good at it, but I have struggled this week."

She may have struggled but she was still lying a strong seventh overall after nine races, in a good fleet which included both the former and present world champions, and Natalia Via Dufrense, the world No 1, who has failed to qualify for the Spain Olympic squad.

British Olympic coaches talk about members of the 12-strong team which will compete at the Olympic Regatta in Savannah in July as being in or out of what they call "the medal zone". Robertson, 27, is among the top four in the squad and is in that zone.

A veteran of Barcelona, where she came ninth, she now has the experience and accumulated time on the water to be right in the hunt for the medals. Jim Saltonstall, the team coach, has followed her progress since her early days in the Royal Yachting Association youth programme ten years ago. "You'd be fairly pushed to identify her weaknesses," he said.

Her critics, however, while acknowledging her impressive consistency, wonder if Robertson has the temperament to cope with the pressures of trying to win a gold medal. At Barcelona she was lying third after two days' racing but then faded.

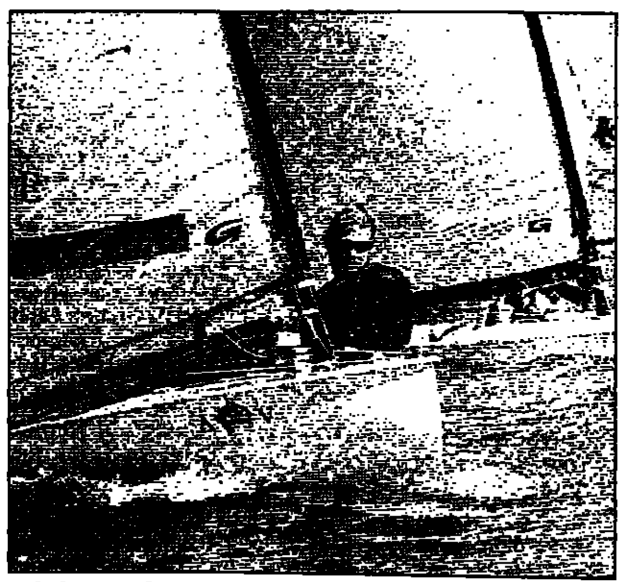
Robertson, who has since done a lot of work on the psychology of sailing to win, believes she is now capable of doing just that. "I know what to expect. In 1992, in Barcelona, I was young and it was all a huge learning experience."

Robertson started sailing a Mirror dinghy at the age of six, near the family home outside Stirling, before graduating to Lasers and the Scotland national squad. After finishing second in the Laser European championships in 1989, she resolved to dedicate herself to winning a gold medal in the Europe class, which was first sailed in Barcelona four years ago. The boats look deceptively simple and easy to control but are, in fact, complex and extremely sensitive to changes in balance, with the weight of the sailor and that of the boat being about the same.

> 'She is in the medal zone'

She came second in the world championships in Denmark in 1993, before holding the top spot in the world for 18 months, a position she has only recently relinquished. The strength of her campaign for Savannah is a tribute not only to her own dedication but also to the support she gets from her partner, Peter Bentley, a yachting journalist and former design manager at Lewmar, the marine hardware company.

Bentley, 35, who travels the world with Robertson helping with coaching and the organisation and financing of her campaign, knows first hand what it is like to live with someone so driven by a single goal. "It's a difficult life," he said. "The disappointments always exceed the high spots. It's been quite hard for me. In common with all successful people, she is very single-minded — actually, selfish — but I don't hold it against her. That's why she's successful."



Robertson has struggled to read the shifting wind in the waters of Biscayne Bay. Photograph: Peter Bentley

Bell opens door as American golf's first lady

Patricia Davies discovers the hopes and fears of the newly-elected USGA president

TOM WATSON, one of the world's great golfers, was born there and Prairie Dunes, one of the world's great courses, lies at its heart, but Kansas is still more readily associated with Dorothy and the yellow brick road than with the royal and ancient game of golf.

On Saturday, however, a native Kansan reached the end of the rainbow and took over as president of the United States Golf Association (USGA), one of the game's top jobs. Even before her year of office began, Judy Bell's term was marked down as unusual, simply because she is a woman. The USGA, formed in 1895, has never had one as president before and Bell, 59, admitted that she was "shocked" when she was nominated at the annual meeting, in Orlando.

"Reality set in at a sports luncheon the other week when a television guy wanted an interview and his first question was 'how do you feel being president of the USGA?' I almost fainted just at the sound of it," she said. "I never did seek the job. It was not one of my all-time goals."

The USGA is one of the game's two governing bodies and makes the rules, along with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, a body that has no women members. That does not bother Bell — nor the R and A. She has seen the inside of the clubhouse at St Andrews more often than most women since becoming the first female member of the USGA executive committee in 1987.

As the organisation's treasurer, secretary and vice-president, she has attended numerous meetings, many during the Open at St Andrews last year. "I had the best time," she said. "I couldn't have been treated better."

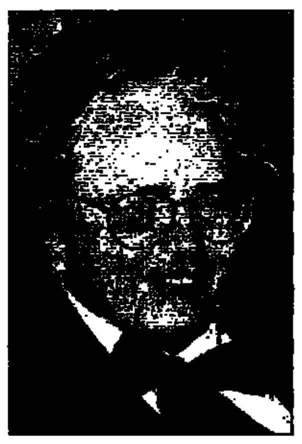
She is no token totem but no head-on stormer of barricades, either. In golfing terms, she is a traditionalist. "I will be looking to keep the organisation steady as she goes," she said, "and to do whatever we can to make sure the game is fun for those who play it.

"Our job is to look after this game and to try and get people to understand its traditions and history, that the reason the rules and handicapping exist is so people can be happy on the golf course.

"I'd like the game to be for everyone, to be accessible, and I'd like to quicken the pace. That's the hard thing. How do we get people's attention that it's much more fun for everyone to play right along? That two folks can play 18 holes in two or 2½ hours, that three or four folks can play in 3½ instead of this 'acceptable' five-hour round — it's absurd."

However, the cart reigns supreme on American courses and it is hard to imagine Nick Faldo or Bernhard Langer hurrying right along in the US Open. Bell realises that she is unlikely to win the slow-play battle. "It's just a dream but I'd like to see it happen," she said.

Bell, who now lives in Colorado Springs, was a player of note herself but has little time these days to tend to her handicap. "It keeps going up and up," she said. "If you want to know what it is for negotiating purposes, I'd say about 9.5, otherwise I'm a six — maybe."



Bell: well respected

She played in the Curtis Cup in 1960 and 1962. The United States won 8-1 in 1962 — "and I was the one", Bell said. She lost to Diane Frearson, who as Diane Bailey came back to haunt her in the Curtis Cups of 1986 and 1988. Bailey and Bell were the respective captains and Great Britain and Ireland won both matches, the former at the aforementioned Prairie Dunes, ending an American winning streak of 13 matches.

In fact, Bell's appointment as president should be a good omen for this year's match at Killarney, in June — she was also chairman of the selectors for the Walker Cup last year and you will remember who won at Royal Porthcawl. It was not the Americans.

Well respected, humorous, not in the least pompous, Bell is more Mandela than Mitterand in terms of presidential poise. She is rarely speechless and has elevated graciousness in defeat to an art form — she would say she has had to.

At the US Open two years ago, when Ernie Els beat Colin Montgomerie and Loren Roberts in a play-off, Bell, who was in charge of setting the pins, was on the 17th green, rolling balls, deciding where to put the hole, when Sky television approached. After one or two questions, there was an awkward silence, which Bell took upon herself to break.

"I'm very popular in your country, you know," she said to the baffled interviewer. "I've been a losing captain twice in the Curtis Cup." That makes her a unique American — which is exactly what she is.

☐ The United States team for the Curtis Cup match against Great Britain and Ireland at Killarney on June 21 and 22 includes Carol Semple Thompson who, at 47, will be making a record ninth appearance. Kellee Booth, Brenda Corrie-Kuehn, Marla Jemsek, Cristie Kerr and Kelli Kuehne will all make their debuts with Sarah Ingram and Ellen Port completing the team. Martha Lang is the Americans' non-playing captain.

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McManus conquers his nerves

BY PHIL YATES

ALAN McMANUS, the world No 6, said that he felt under more pressure than he does during a snooker final after beating Rod Lawler 5-4 in the first round of the Regal Welsh Open at Newport yesterday.

The world ranking system heavily punishes the seeded top-16 players who fail to clear their opening hurdle, and McManus knew that defeat would prove expensive when the list receives its annual revision in May. "I've been tied to the practice table for the last three weeks preparing for this tournament, but I felt so much under the cosh I just couldn't play naturally," McManus said.

Lawler, a quarter-finalist in the German Open last month, looked set to cause an upset when he established a 4-3 lead, but McManus conquered his nerves in the closing frames with breaks of 60 and 47.

Paul Hunter, 17, underlined his status as the season's outstanding rookie with a 5-1 win over Nigel Bond, runner-up to Stephen Hendry in the world championship last year, for the shock result of the weekend. Terry Murphy, now certain to play alongside Dennis Taylor and Joe Swail for Northern Ireland in the World Cup later this year, compiled a 131 total clearance during the deciding frame of his 5-4 victory over James Wattana.

Steve Davis, attempting to win the title for a third year in succession, showed a marked improvement on recent form during a 5-2 victory over Dominic Dale on Saturday.

Results, page 29

Charles surprised to be in Smith's wake

GLYN CHARLES yesterday looked back over what he described as a "weird week", competing with Lawrie Smith in the Star class for a place in the Great Britain Olympic yachting squad (Edward Gorman writes). After six races, Charles is ten points behind Smith and one behind him in the placings for the 49-strong fleet at the Olympic Classes Regatta in Miami.

It is a puzzle to Charles that he is not already ahead. "We've beaten him in four out of the six races and led him in five of them," he said. "We've passed him in all the races we've won — so we don't feel we're lacking in any way."

Despite what some see as the psychological struggle facing Charles, who has lost to Smith in two previous Olympic qualifying battles, he is confident that he will eventually win the place at the Bacardi Cup in March.

"We're only ten points behind and that could be completely turned round in one race at the Bacardi, when the fleet will be much bigger," Charles said.

The racing between the two on Saturday was not without incident. The shackle at the top of Smith's main halyard gave way, sending his mainsail tumbling down during the midday break between races.

In order to retrieve the loose end, Smith and Chris Mason had to capsize their boat and may have slightly bent the mast in doing so. This did not adversely affect their performance as they followed their thirteenth place in the morning with a twelfth after lunch.

Ben Ainslie has had a good week in Miami. He looked a likely contender to emerge as the overall winner in the 128-strong Laser fleet. He has scored a first and a fifth place and could triumph if he puts in reasonable performances in the final two races.

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ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: BUPA International Meeting: Great Britain 126 Russia 148 (Men: 69-68, Women: 57-80): Men: 60m: 1, J Gardener 6.55; 2, P Galkin (Rus) 6.68; 3, K Williams 6.72; 4, A Grigoryeva (Rus) 7.02. 200m: 1, S Wariso 21.03; 2, A Fedoriv (Rus) 21.16; 3, D Turner 21.19; 4, K Dyomin 21.58. 400m: 1, M Hylton 46.98; 2, G Bullock 47.05; 3, D Golovastov (Rus) 47.08; M Vdovin (Rus) did not finish. 800m: 1, A Loginov (Rus) 1:50.54; 2, S Kozhevnikov (Rus) 1:50.99; 3, E King 1:51.25; 4, A Hart 1:51.43. 1,500m: 1, A Whiteman 3mins 39.47sec; 2, A Zadorozhniy (Rus) 3:44.27; 3, A Ryazanov (Rus) 3:44.28; 4, I Gillespie 3:44.48. 3,000m: 1, V Kashayev (Rus) 7:57.79; 2, N Caddy 7:58.14; 3, S Drygin (Rus) 7:58.60; 4, R Finch 7:58.63. 60m hurdles: 1, S Vetrov (Rus) 7.85; 2, N Owen 7.87; 3, A Markin (Rus) 7.88; 4, A Tulloch 7.90. 4x400m relay: 1, GB 3:08.47; 2, Russia 3:08.81. High jump: 1, D Grant 2.34; 2, S Smith 2.30; 3, A Kuralyuk (Rus) 2.20; 4, V Voronin (Rus) 2.15. Long jump: 1, K Sosunov (Rus) 8.06m; 2, V Taranov (Rus) 7.87; 3, S Phillips 7.56; 4, C Howard 7.44. Triple jump: 1, A Kurennoy (Rus) 16.49; 2, V Sotnikov (Rus) 16.24; 3, F Agyepong 16.15; 4, T Fasinro 15.79. Shot: 1, S Pickering 19.10; 2, M Proctor 18.92; 3, V Kapustin (Rus) 18.88; 4, A Shidlovsky (Rus) 17.28. Pole vault: 1, Y Smiryagin (Rus) 5.55; 2, N Buckfield 5.50 (UK record); 3, V Strogalyov (Rus) 5.50; M Belsham no height. Women: 60m: 1, N Anisimova (guest) 7.37; 2, N Merzlyakova (Rus) 7.42; 3, S Douglas 7.43; 4, M Richardson 7.44; 5, G Malchugina (Rus) 7.48. 200m: 1, S Goncharenko (Rus) 23.26; 2, Y Leshcheva (Rus) 23.42; 3, C Murphy 23.46; 4, M Neef 23.62. 400m: 1, E Andreeva (Rus) 53.49; 2, Y Sotnikova (Rus) 53.58; 3, S Llewellyn 54.12; 4, L Owusu 55.20. 800m: 1, I Korzh (Rus) 2:05.32; 2, I Platonova (Rus) 2:05.33; 3, A Davies 2:06.27; 4, V Lawrence 2:10.01. 1,500m: 1, I Bayukova (Rus) 4:13.05; 2, D Gunning 4:13.40; 3, A Griffiths 4:16.25; Y Mikhaylova (Rus) did not finish. 3,000m: 1, S McGeorge 9:28.04; 2, L Vasilevskaya (Rus) 9:20.35; 3, Y Kaledina (Rus) 9:32.05; 4, S Bentley 9:38.38. 60m hurdles: 1, C Court 8.35; 2, D Allahgreen 8.38; 3, T Lebedeva (Rus) 8.24; N Shekhodanova did not finish. 4x400m relay: 1, Russia 3:31.88; 2, Great Britain 3:37.47. High jump: 1, N Golodnova (Rus) 1.95; 2, Y Aleksandrova (Rus) 1.92; 3, M Dunkley 1.86; 4, D Marti 1.83. Long jump: 1, D Lewis 6.45; 2, A Mironova (Rus) 6.33; 3, T Lebedyeva (Rus) 6.05; 4, A Brooks 5.98. Triple jump: 1, N Kayukova (Rus) 13.90; 2, M Griffith 13.46; 3, I Melnikova (Rus) 13.33; 4, S Anderson 12.96. Shot: 1, J Oakes 18.83; 2, I Khudorozhkina (Rus) 18.28; 3, I Korzhanenko (Rus) 17.99; 4, M Lynes 15.80. Pole vault: 1, S Abramova (Rus) 4.00; 2, G Yenvarenko (Rus) 3.90; 3, K Staples 3.70; 4, L Stanton 3.50

SINDELFINGEN, Germany: Indoor Meeting: Men: 60m: 1, B Surin (Can) 6.55secs; 2, D Bailey (Can) 6.60; 3, M McKoy (Austria) 6.70. 200m: 1, Bailey 21.05; 2, F Schwarthoff (Ger) 21.21; 3, T Douglas (Berm) 21.33. 400m: 1, D Hall (US) 46.71; 2, K Widmer (Switz) 47.50; 3, J Voelkel (Ger) 47.64. 5,000m: 1, H Gebreselasie (Eth) 13:10.98 (world record); 2, S Franke (Ger) 13:37.49; 3, K Eich (Ger) 13:59.90. 60m hurdles: 1, L Tong (China) 7.58; 2, M Fenner (Ger) 7.59; 3, F Balzer (Ger) 7.61. Pole vault: 1, R Gataullin (Rus) 5.50m; 2, M Voss (Den) 5.40; 3, W Holl (Ger) 5.40. Women: 60m: 1, Z Pintusevich (Ukr) 7.26; 2, C Opara (Nigeria) 7.27. 200m: 1, M Paschke (Ger) 23.20; 2, M Donders (Holl) 24.38. 800m: 1, L Vriesde (Surinam) 2:02.25; 2, P Djate (Fr) 2:03.83. 1,500m: 1, M Rydz (Pol) 4:15.93; 2, F Quentin (Fr) 4:16.15; 3, N Dukhnova (Bela) 4:16.49. 60m hurdles: 1, A Tawo (Nigeria) 8.00; 2, G Russell (Jam) 8.02; 3, C Jung (Ger) 8.09. Triple jump: 1, I Kravets (Ukr) 14.00; 2, T Marinova (Bul) 13.56; 3, H Radtke (Ger) 13.34. Shot: 1, A Kumbernuss (Ger) 20.18; 2, K Neimke (Ger) 19.20; 3, C Muss (Ger) 17.87

HARINGEY: South of England indoor championships: Men: High jump: 1, S Ohrland (Chelmsford) 2.05m; 2, P Gilding (Brighton & Hove) 1.90. Long jump: 1, C Davidson (Newham & Essex Beagles) 7.32; 2, T Sinclair (Bedford) 6.86; 3, T Huntley (Blackheath) 6.65. Triple jump: 1, J Sweeney (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 16.53; 2, P Ralph (GEC Avionics) 15.10; 3, M Randall (Hastings) 14.59. Women: High jump: J Brown (Ashford) 1.65. Triple jump: 1, K Denham (Unattached) 11.88; 2, S McGiven (Peterborough) 11.13

CROSS COUNTRY: (San Sebastian): IAAF World Cross Challenge: Men: 10km: 1, J Kariuki (Ken) 29:39; 2, W Bikila (Eth) 29:40; 3, S Hissou (Mor) 29:41; 4, A Gomez (Sp) 29:49; 5, A Mezegebu (Eth) 29:55; 6, J-M Garcia (Sp) 29:57. GB placing: 16, C Sweeney (Tipton) 30:53; 18, J Downes (London Irish) 31:13. Standings: 1, Kariuki 85pts; 2, P Mosima (Ken) 64; 3, S Kororia (Ken) 47; 4, D Komen (Ken) 44; 5, Mezegebu 41; 6, R Walem (Bel) 41. GB standings: 7, Sweeney 40; 10, A Pearson (Longwood) 35; 11, J Nuttall (Preston) 32; 18, D Burke (London Irish) 25; 24, K Cullen (Chelmsford) 22. Women: 5.624km: 1, D Tulu (Eth) 18:34; 2, I Negura (Rom) 18:35; 3, J Vaquero (Sp) 18:48; 4, F Ribeiro (Por) 18:55; 5, Z Ouaziz (Mor) 19:08; 6, C Fuentes (Sp) 19:07. GB placing: 11, S Rigg (Warrington) 19:22. Standings: 1, R Cheruiyot (Ken) 91pts; 2, E Fidatov (Rom) 74; 3, G Wami (Eth) 54; 4, P Radcliffe (Bedford) and A Sandell (Finland) and Tulu 50. GB standings: 10, Rigg 41; 17, A Hulley (Leeds) 25

HORSHAM: South of England Shot Putt Championships: Men: 1, D Callaway (Haringey) 17.21m (Championship record); 2, N Spratley (Reading) 16.21; 3, A Turner (Crawley) 14.86. Women: 1, J Oakes (Croydon) 18.33 (Championship record); 2, D Callaway (Aldershot, Farnham & District) 13.64; 3, E Gatrell (Woking) 12.22. Junior men: E Udechuku (Blackheath) 15.42. Junior women: N Smith (Hounslow) 13.60 (Championship record). Men U17: A Cluskey (Blackheath) 14.00. Women U17: S Reid-Hughes (Tonbridge) 10.97. Boys U15: G Reid-Hughes (Tonbridge) 13.35. Girls U15: J Spellacy (Castle Point) 9.03m.

BOXING

PHEONIX, Arizona: World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation junior-middleweight championship (12rds): Terry Norris (US, holder) bt Jorge Luis Vado (Nic) rsc 2nd. World Boxing Association featherweight championship (12rds): Eloy Rojas (Ven, holder) bt Miguel Arrozal (Phi) pts. International Boxing Federation middleweight championship (12rds): Bernard Hopkins (US, holder) bt Steve Frank (US) rsc 1st. Heavyweight (10rds): Henry Akinwande (UK) bt Brian Sargent (US) rsc 1st

TOKYO: World Boxing Association junior-lightweight championship (12rds): Choi Yong-Soo (S Kor, holder) bt Yamato Mitani (Jpn) pts

METROPOLE HOTEL, Brighton: Commonwealth super-featherweight championship (12rds): Justin Juuko (Ug, holder) bt Jackie Gunguluza (SA) rsc 7th. Heavyweight (8rds): Corrie Sanders (SA) bt Keith Fletcher (Reading) ko 2nd; (6rds): Pele (Birmingham) bt Vance Idiens (Wolverhampton) rsc 1st. Light-heavyweight (6rds): Nicky Wadman (Brighton) bt Jason Davies (Cardiff) rsc 2nd; (6rds) Mark Snipe (Brighton) bt Robert Harper (Doncaster) pts. Super-middleweight (8rds): Robin Reid (Runcorn) bt Stinger Mason (Sheffield) rsc 2nd. Middleweight (6rds): Ryan Rhodes (Sheffield) bt Martin Jolly (Alfreton) ko 3rd. Light-middleweight (6rds): Wayne Appleton (Pontefract) bt Lee Wicks (Brighton) pts. Welterweight (6rds): Paul Dyer (Portsmouth) bt Danny Quacoe (Crawley) pts

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: BCCA National Trophy (Northallerton): Fourth round: 16 miles: 1, P Willemsens (Bel) 59min 37sec; 2, P Van Riet (Bel) at 1:46; 3, T Gould (Team Schwinn) at 2:47. Final overall standings: 1, B Clarke (Team Raleigh) 174 pts; 2, N Craig (Diamond Back) 147; 3, T Gould 126. Mapperley CC (Calverton, Notts): 9 miles: 1, C Sturgeon (O Rangers) 44:11; 2, D Alexander (Brook CC) at 44sec; 3, F Holmes (Brook CC) at 1:37. Notts and Derbys League overall standings: 1, I Matthews (Beeston RC) 808 pts; 2, J Taylor (Brook CC) 770; 3, R Gilbert (Belper RC) 685. Didcot Phoenix (Harwell): 12 miles: 1, R Hammond (South Western RC) 58:34; 2, I Langdon (Team Bike Bristol) at 59sec; 3, A Butt (Antelope RT) at 2:03. Wolverhampton Wheelers (Aldersley Stadium): 8 miles: 1, G Richardson (Coventry Olympic CC) 51:30; 2, A Siers (Royal Sutton CC) at 10sec; 3, E Sugrue (Long Eaton Paragon) at 2:15. Wigan Wheelers (Three Sisters Recreation Area): 8 miles: 1, P Middleton (North West MBC) 1:05:00; 2, R Wilkinson (VC La Motta) at 30sec; 3, J Gildea (Eastlands Velo) at 1:10.

FENCING

GUILDFORD SPECTRUM: Corble Cup International Sabre: 1, G Galvez (Fr); 2, A Williame (Fr); 3, J Williams (GB) and K Zavieh (GB); 5, P Delrieu (Fr); 6, M Predhumeau (Fr); 7, T Ros (Hol); 8, F Pailhasse (Fr)

RAF COSFORD, Wolverhampton: British Epee Championships: Men: 1, O Bamman (Cardiff); 2, R Phelps (MPAGB); 3, G Allen (Haverstock) and B Scott (Reading); 5, M Kingston (Llantwit Major); 6, S Austin (LTFC); 7, E Usher (Cambridge U); 8, P Mitchell (Reading). Women: 1, S Pearce (Leicester); 2, K Allenby (MPAGB); 3, R McFadden (Eclipse) and L Roy (Eclipse); 5, D Catchpole (Taunton); 6, K Sinker (Reading); 7, M Kimberley (MPAGB); 8, L Sheppeard (Bath U).

GOLF

TANAH MERAH, Singapore: Johnnie Walker Classic tournament: Third-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 204: W Riley (Aus) 70, 67, 67; P Eales 69, 67, 68. 206: F Couples (US) 68, 69, 69; I Woosnam 69, 68, 69; A Painter (Aus) 67, 70, 69; E Els (SA) 67, 67, 72. 207: C Parry (Aus) 72, 68, 67; P Curry 68, 70, 69; A Coltart 69, 68, 70. 208: A Hunter 69, 71, 68; P McGinley 71, 68, 69; B Hughes (Aus) 66, 72, 70; R Boxall 73, 70, 65. 209: S Struver (Ger) 71, 70, 68; J Van de Velde (Fr) 69, 71, 69; J Daly (US) 67, 73, 69; D Dunakey (US) 71, 68, 70; D McKenzie (Aus) 68, 70, 71; H Clark 70, 68, 71; I Aoki (Jpn) 70, 68, 71; O Karlsson (Swe) 66, 69, 74. 210: S Torrance 68, 72, 70; R Claydon 73, 67, 70; J Senior (Aus) 71, 71, 68; R Burns 73, 69, 68; C Cevaer (Fr) 72, 70, 68; D Ferdon (Aus) 69, 70, 71; R Willis (Aus) 73, 65, 72; D Clarke 67, 70, 73. 211: (x) C Praphol (Thai) 72, 69, 70; Park Nam-sin (S Kor) 72, 67, 72; J Townsend (US) 68, 74, 69; A Gilligan (Aus) 73, 69, 69. 212: F Lindgren (Swe) 71, 71, 70; R Green (Aus) 73, 69, 70; A Sherborne 68, 74, 70; Choi Sang-ho (S Kor) 70, 69, 73; Z Moe (Burma) 68, 70, 74; G Orr 71, 72, 69. 213: D Bransdon (Aus) 70, 71, 72; P Gunasegaran (Mal) 71, 70, 72; T Price (US) 69, 72, 72; P Moss (US) 69, 71, 73; P Senior (Aus) 69, 71, 73; P O'Malley (Aus) 72, 70, 71; B Langer (Ger) 68, 74, 71; Kim Jung-duk (S Kor) 72, 70, 71; Chua Gaan-soon (Sing) 75, 67, 71; J Singh (Ind) 69, 73, 71; K Tomori (Jpn) 70, 73, 70. 214: M Harwood (Aus) 71, 70, 73; J Payne 73, 68, 73; S Mori (Jpn) 74, 68, 72; M Mouland 73, 70, 71; P Fowler (Aus) 71, 72, 71. 215: S Ginn (Aus) 70, 73, 72. 216: Hsieh Chin-sheng (Tai) 69, 73, 74; J O'Keefe (US) 70, 72, 74; S Ames (Trin) 68, 70, 78; G Norman (Aus) 71, 72, 73. 217: P McWhinney (US) 72, 70, 75; L Westwood 73, 70, 74; G Nicklaus (US) 71, 72, 74. 218: R Allenby (Aus) 74, 68, 76; P Affleck 69, 74, 75; D Robertson 71, 72, 75. 219: M Litton 68, 75, 76; M Jonzon (Swe) 71, 72, 76. 220: D Cole (Aus) 69, 73, 78.

(x) denotes amateur

ARIZONA: Phoenix Open: Final-round scores (US unless stated): 269: P Mickelson 69, 67, 66, 67 (won third hole by sudden death); J Leonard 67, 67, 65, 69. 270: T Scherrer 67, 70, 65, 68. 271: M Calcavecchia 72, 69, 68, 62; J Wilson 67, 71, 67, 66. 272: C Byrum 69, 69, 72, 62; S Simpson 67, 71, 68, 66; R Mediate 70, 67, 68, 67; W Austin 65, 67, 72, 68. Selected scores: 273: S Lyle (GB) 68, 72, 67, 66. 275: B Lane (GB) 68, 68, 69, 70.

PORT EDWARD, South Africa: Leading third round scores (SA unless stated): 207: W Westner 69, 68, 70. 209: C Williams 71, 69, 69; M McNulty (Zim) 68, 69, 72. 211: I Palmer 70, 70, 71. 212: R Sailor (Austria) 68, 76, 68; M Christie (US) 67, 78, 69; W Schutte 70, 72, 70; P Moore (US) 69, 72, 71. 213: R Kaplan 74, 72, 67; C Davison (GB) 70, 73, 70. 214: M Gortana 72, 74, 68; T Dodds (Nam) 71, 73, 70; J Mashego 72, 72, 70; A Sobrinho (Por) 72, 72, 70; H Baiocchi 68, 74, 71; C Kamps 71, 72, 71; F Quinn Jnr (US) 73, 69, 72; D Higgins (Ire) 68, 72, 74. 215: A da Silva (Br) 71, 74, 70; G Read 72, 70, 73; S van der Merwe 72, 70, 73

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 13.73pts ave; 2, N Price (Zim) 10.89; 3, E Els (SA) 10.02; 4, B Langer (Ger) 9.33; 5, C Pavin (US) 9.31; 6, C Montgomerie (GB) 8.97; 7, N Faldo (GB) 8.17; 8, M Ozaki (Japan) 7.16; 9, S Elkington (Aus) 7.11; 10, F Couples (US) 7.03; 11, T Lehman (US) 6.77; 12, L Roberts (US) 6.48; 13, J M Olazábal (Sp) 6.34; 14, L Janzen (US) 5.37; 15, S Torrance (GB) 5.35; 16, S Hoch (US) 5.34; 17, V Singh (Fiji) 5.33; 18, P Jacobsen (US) 5.24; 19, B Crenshaw (US) 4.94; 20, M McCumber (US) 4.93.

HOCKEY

BARCELONA: Men's Olympic qualifying tournament: Great Britain 2 Belgium 0; India 0 Malaysia 0; Canada 7 Belarus 0; Spain 1 Holland 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	7	5	1	1	27	13	11
India	7	4	3	0	15	7	11
Britain	7	3	4	0	17	11	10
Spain	7	3	3	1	15	8	9
Malaysia	7	3	1	3	9	11	7
Canada	7	2	2	3	17	16	6
Belgium	7	1	0	6	12	25	2
Belarus	7	0	0	7	4	25	0

Top five qualify for Atlanta Olympics

GLASGOW: European Indoor Championship: Pool A: France 9 Denmark 2; Germany 3 Scotland 2. Pool B: Austria 5 Slovakia 8; England 4 Spain 4. Final: England 2 Germany 2 (England won 4-2 on penalties). Semi-finals: Germany 7 Spain 3; Scotland 4 England 6. Play-off: Third place: Scotland 1 Spain 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pool A							
Scotland	3	2	0	1	18	4	4
Germany	3	2	0	1	13	4	4
France	3	2	0	1	10	6	4
Denmark	3	0	0	3	4	31	0
Pool B							
Spain	3	2	1	0	26	6	5
England	3	2	1	0	25	9	5
Slovakia	3	1	0	2	14	26	2
Austria	3	0	0	3	6	30	0

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Postponed: Anchorians v Spencer; Ashford v Lewes; Beckenham v H Wycombe; Bournemouth v O Walcountians; Fareham v Woking; Gore Ct v Wokingham; Maidenhead v Wimbledon; O Kingstonians v Newbury; Oxford H v Chichester; Winchester v Lions. Middx/Berks/Bucks & Oxon: Postponed: Amersham v Marlow; ETESSA v Bracknell; M Keynes v Mill Hill; NPL v Hayes; OMT v Hendon; PHC Chiswick v HCC; Ramgarhia v Harrow; Richings Pk v Eastcote; Staines v Headington; Sunbury v Oxford. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Worthing; Bexley Invicta v Blackheath; Crawley v Brighton; Herne B v Bexleyheath; Horsham v Sevenoaks; Marden R v Tulse H; Middleton v Tunbridge W; O Bordenians v O Beccehamians; O Holcombeians v Mid Sussex; O Williamsonians v Bognor. Hampshire/Surrey: Blandford 1 Oxshott 1. Postponed: Andover v Southampton; Basingstoke v O Mid Whitgiftians; Cheam v Camberley; Dulwich v O Edwardians; London Univ v Barnes; O Cranleighans v Purley; O Whitgiftians v Solent HC; Oxted v Epsom; Petersfield v Walton & Weybridge

SUNLIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Exeter University 1 Bristol University 1; Plymouth 2 Whitchurch D 3

DTZ MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Bloxwich v North Notts; Harborne v Hampton-in-Arden; Khalsa v Bridgnorth; Loughborough Student v John Player; Nottingham v Belper.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Ben Rhydding v Sheffield Bankers; Formby v Norton; Harrogate v Neston; Southport v Timperley; Warrington v Halifax. Second Division. Alderley Edge v Springfields; Blackburn v Northern; Disley v Bowdon; Knutsford v Stockton; Oxton v Swalwell, Tynemouth v York, Wigan v Ramgarhia.

MOTOR RACING

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida: Indy Racing League: 1, B Calkins (US, Reynard Ford Cosworth) 200 laps 128.325 mph; 2, T Stewart (US, Lola Menard) 200laps; 3, R Buhl (US, Reynard Ford Cosworth) 199laps.

RACKETS

HARROW SCHOOL: Henderson Professional Championship: Quarter-finals: N Smith bt N Cripps 15-0, 15-4, 15-0; T Sawrey-Cookson bt P Roesser 15-6, 15-1, 15-11; D Makey bt J Eaton 6-15, 15-1, 9-15, 15-10, 15-10; R Wakely bt P Brake 10-15, 7-15, 15-12, 15-9, 15-7. Semi-finals: Smith bt Sawrey-Cookson 17-15, 15-3, 15-1; Makey bt Wakely 7-15, 15-10, 15-10, 15-5. Final: Smith bt Makey 15-1, 15-6, 15-4.

REAL TENNIS

NEW YORK: US Open: Doubles: Semi final: Men: C Bray and M Gooding (GB) bt R Gunn (GB) and P Tabley (Aus) 3-2.

RIFLE SHOOTING

HOBART: Tasmanian Queens Prize. The Queens prize won: 1, A Halstead (NSW) 388.27; 2, N Ball (LMRA) 386.25; 15, G Cann (LMRA) 379.24; 18, P Barry (LMRA) 379.16; 21, J Scoble (LMRA) 378.24. Return Servicemens Trophy (Highest in Queens): Ball 386.25. Wishart Trophy (Queens II 600 and 700 yards): 1, Cann 98.8; 2, W Nathan (Taz) 98.6; 3, Mrs J Dyer (Darwin) 98.6; 10, Scoble 96.8; 14, Ball 96.6. 1000 yards championship: 1, A Powell (Victoria) 71.3; 2, R Betts (LMRA) 69.6; 5, N Brasier (LMRA) 68.3; 12, C Mallett (LMRA) 66.4. 300m championship: 1, Halstead 571; 5, Brasier 556; 6, Mallet 554. Grand Aggregate: 1, B Martin (Queensland) 576.45; 11, Scoble 565.40; 12, Ball 565.36; 16, Barry 564.35; 26, D Cole (LMRA) 561.25

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Welsh Open: First round: First round: Saturday: G Greene (Eng) bt A Knowles (Eng) 5-0; J Higgins (Scot) bt M Flowerdew (Eng) 5-2; A Hamilton (Eng) bt J Birch (Eng) 5-3; J Grech (Malta) bt D Reynolds (Eng) 5-1; C Small (Scot) bt B Morgan (Eng) 5-0; P Ebdon (Eng) bt C MacGillivray (Scot) 5-2; T Chappel (Wales) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-3; P Hunter (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-1; G Wilkinson (Eng) bt C Scanlon (Eng) 5-3; J Parrott (Eng) bt N Terry (Eng) 5-4; T Griffiths (Wales) bt D Lennox (Ire) 5-3; N Foulds (Eng) bt A Davies (Wales) 5-4; T Murphy (N Ire) bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-4; S Davis (Eng) bt D Dale (Wales) 5-2; J White (Eng) bt M Johnston-Allen (Eng) 5-3; W Jones (Wales) bt S James (Eng) 5-2. Yesterday: K Payne (Eng) bt J Ferguson (Eng) 5-3; A McManus (Scot) bt Lawler (Eng) 5-4; F O'Brien (Ire) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-4; J Giles (Eng) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-3; S Newbury (Wales) bt M Price (Eng) 5-2; K Doherty (Ire) bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-4; S Pettman (Eng) bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-4; D Harold (Eng) bt A Jones (Eng) 5-3. G Dott (Scot) bt D O'Kane (N Z) 5-2

SWIMMING

ESPOO, Finland: World Cup: Finals: Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1, C Fydler (Aus) 22.35sec; 2, C Kalfayan (Fr) 22.45; 3, B Hawke (Aus) 22.74. 100m: 1, Kalfayan 48.85; 2, Fydler 49.08; 3, I Sei (Est) 50.17. 200m: 1, Fydler 1min 48.87sec; 2, J I Melberg (Nor) 1:49.94; 3, D Maganas (Gr) 1:50.73. 400m: 1, Qingsong Deng (China) 3min 49.32sec; 2, Maganas 3:49.83; 3, M Bodungen (Swe) 3:55.89. 800m: 1, Deng 7:58.13; 2, Maganas 8:05.24; 3, K Galka (Pol) 8:05.38. Backstroke: 50m: 1, M Siembida (Pol) 25.52sec; 2, V Nikolajtjuk (Ukr) 25.66; 3, T E Karlsen (Nor) 25.69. 100m: 1, Nikolaychuk 54.83; 2, Siembida 54.89; 3, M Spokas (Lit) 55.45. 200m: 1, Nikolajtjuk 1min 57.36sec; 2, M Siembida (Pol) 1:59.44; 3, A Savickas (Lit) 2:00.73. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, Chuan Ding (China) 27.83sec; 2, G Schmidt (US) 27.84; 3, V Tatarov (Moldavia) 28.81. 100m: 1, V Tatarov (Moldavia) 1min 1.68sec; 2, G Schmidt (US) 1:01.88; 3, B Moerk (Nor) 1:01.96. 200m: 1, B Moerk (Nor) 2:10.56; 2, Tatarov 2:11.65; 3, A Gukov (Belo) 2:11.95. Butterfly: 50m: 1, D Slantsev (Ukr) 24.47sec; 2, A Kasvio (Fin) 24.60; 3, A Pine (Aus) 24.69. 100m: 1, Slantjev 52.79sec; 2, V Hanski (Fin) 53.09; 3, Pine 53.91. 200m: 1, Hanski 1min 55.29sec; 2, Slantjev 1:56.30; 3, K Galka (Pol) 2:01.04. Individual medley: 100m: 1, P Lehtinen (Fin) 55.85sec; 2, M Kazmirjuk (Moldavia) 56.81; 3, Xiao Zheng (China) 56.90. 200m: 1, Lehtinen 2min 0.31sec; 2, M Milenkovic (Slovenia) 2:02.73; 3, V Kalmikovs (Lat) 2:03.21. 400m: 1, J Sievinen (Fin) 4min 14.96sec; 2, Milenkovic 4:17.10; 3, Lehtinen 4:17.12. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, Zelvene (Lit) 25.46sec; 2, V Johansen (Nor) 25.88; 3, A Kennedy (Aus) 25.95. 100m: Zelvene 55.03; 2, V Johansen (Nor) 55.; 3, J Draxler (Austria) 56.28. 200m: 1, I Dalby (Nor) 2min 1.13sec; 2, H Cerna (Cz) 2:01.91; 3, S Catherwood (NZ) 2:02.7. 400m: 1, Dalby 4:12.47; 2, J Pechanova (Cz) 4:20.82; 3, R Martinsen (Nor) 4:24.72. 800m: 1, I Dalby (Nor) 8:36.63; 2, Pechanova (Cz) 8:53.73; 3, K Puukka (Fin) 9:09.00. Backstroke: 50m: 1, A Korvisto (Fin) 29.41sec; 2, A Kezar (Slovakia) 29.58; 3, E Overton (Aus) 29.64. 100m: 1, A Simcic (NZ) 1min 3.43sec; 2, A Kopatiena (Belo) 1:04.09; 3, S Price (GB) 1:04.29. 200m: 1, Kezar 2:11.56; 2, Simcic 2:11.72; 3, A Korvisto 2:4.59. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, T Miller (Nor) 31.92sec; 2, V Lischka (Austria) 32.10; 3, M Naeckel (Ger) 32.64. 100m: 1, Miller 1:09.33; 2, V Lischka (Austria) 1:10.15; 3, M Naeckel (Ger) 1:10.30. 200m: 1, A Kezar (Slovakia) 2:28.98; 2, Miller 2:30.10; 3, Kezar 2:31.21. Butterfly: 50m: 1, Kennedy 27.27sec; 2, D Zelvene (Lit) 27.82; 3, M Fichr (Ger) 27.84. 100m: 1, Kennedy 1min 0.21sec; 2, Fichr 1:01.20; 3, A Simakova (Cz) 1:02.91. 200m: 1, H Slatter (GB) 2:14.78; 2, A Simakova (Cz) 2:16.13; 3, Kennedy 2:16.52. Individual medley: 100m: 1, Overton 1:03.40; 2, Kennedy 1:03.79; 3, Korvisto 1:04.73. 200m: 1, Overton 2:13.96; 2, Kennedy 2:16.36; 3, Cerna 2:16.85

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open

Men: Singles: Final: B Becker (Ger) bt M Chang (US) 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2

Doubles: Final: S Edberg and P Korda (Cz) bt S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) 7-5, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1

Women: Singles: Final: M Seles (US) bt Anke Huber (Ger) 6-4, 6-1

Doubles: Final: C Rubin (US) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt L Davenport and M J Fernandez (US) States, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4

Mixed doubles: Semi-final: M Woodforde (Aus) and L Neiland (Lat) bt M Knowles (Bah) and L Raymond (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Final: Woodforde and Neiland bt L Jensen and N Arendt (US) States, 4-6, 7-5, 6-0

Boys': Singles: Semi-finals: B Rehnqvist (Swe) bt D Elsner (Ger) 6-4, 6-3; M Hellstrom (Swe) bt S Gaoni (Aus) 2-6, 6-2, 7-5. Final: Rehnqvist bt Hellstrom 6-1, 7-6. Doubles: Final: D Bracciali (It) and J Robichaud (Can) bt M Lee and J Trotman (GB) 6-2, 6-4. Girls': Singles: Semi-finals: N Dechy (Fr) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-1, 6-1. Final: Grzybowska bt Dechy 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. Doubles: Semi-finals: M Pastikova and J Schonfeldova (Cz) bt R Reid and C Watson (Aus) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; O Barabanschikova (Belo) and M Lucic (Cro) bt S Kleinova (Cz) and L Varmuzova (San Marino) 6-1, 6-3. Final: Pastikova and Schonfeldova bt Barabanschikova and Lucic 6-1, 6-3.

HEILBRONN: ATP Challenger tournament (selected result): C Woodruff (US) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-2, 6-2

CRICKET

Third Test match

Australia v Sri Lanka

ADELAIDE (fourth day of five): Sri Lanka, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Australia

AUSTRALIA: First innings 502 for 9 dec (S R Waugh 170, M E Waugh 71, I A Healy 70, P R Reiffel 56)

Second Innings

M J Slater b Wickremasinghe	15
*M A Taylor b Pushpakumara	10
D C Boon c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	35
M E Waugh c Tillekeratne b Vaas	12
S R Waugh not out	61
R T Ponting c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	20
†I A Healy c Hathurusinghe b Pushpakumara	43
P R Reiffel not out	14
Total (6 wkts, dec)	215

S K Warne, C J McDermott and G D McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-36, 3-70, 4-75, 5-122, 6-185.

BOWLING: Vaas 21-6-44-3; Pushpakumara 17-2-63-2; Wickremasinghe 13-1-39-1; Dharmasena 22-1-67-0.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

U C Hathurusinghe c M E Waugh b Reiffel	28
S T Jayasuriya c Healy b Reiffel	48
A P Gurusinha c Reiffel b McGrath	17
S Ranatunga c S R Waugh b McDermott	60
†R S Kaluwitharana lbw Reiffel	31
H P Tillekeratne c Healy b McGrath	65
*P A de Silva c Taylor b McGrath	19
H D P K Dharmasena c Healy b McGrath	0
W P U J C Vaas c M Waugh b Reiffel	8
G P Wickremasinghe b Reiffel	10
K R Pushpakumara not out	2
Extras (b 8, lb 13, w 1, nb 7)	29
Total	317

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-89, 3-129, 4-171, 5-237, 6-290, 7-290, 8-299, 9-309.

BOWLING: McDermott 20-5-81-1, McGrath 27-4-91-4; Warne 26-4-74-0; Reiffel 19.1-4-39-5; M Waugh 5-2-11-0.

Second Innings

U C Hathurusinghe c Healy b McGrath	14
S T Jayasuriya not out	50
A P Gurusinha not out	2
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (1 wkt)	69

*P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, S Ranatunga, †R S Kaluwitharana, W P U J C Vaas, H D P K Dharmasena, G P Wickremasinghe and K R Pushpakumara to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-51.

BOWLING: McGrath 9-2-25-1; Reiffel 6-0-20-0; S Waugh 4-1-9-0. Warne 2-0-14-0

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Sydney: Western Australia 402 (M Hussey 105, B Hogg 111 not out; J Julian 5-34) and 193-4 dec (M Lavender 73); New South Wales 259 (S Lee 69) and 8-0. Brisbane: Queensland 533-6 dec (M Hayden 234, M Love 186), Tasmania 336 (M Divenuto 89, D Hills 85) and 42-3

One-day international

New Zealand v Zimbabwe

AUCKLAND (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by 74 runs

NEW ZEALAND

C M Spearman c Whittall b Streak	22
N J Astle c Campbell b Peall	120
S P Fleming run out	2
R G Twose c Brandes b P Strang	53
C L Cairns run out	23
A C Parore not out	26
S A Thomson not out	11
Extras (lb 6, w 14, nb 1)	21
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	278

*†L Germon, D N Patel, G R Larsen and D K Morrison did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-61, 3-198, 4-232, 5-262.

BOWLING: Streak 10-0-32-1; Brandes 6-0-58-0; B Strang 7-0-34-0, Whittall 10-0-58-0; Peall 7-0-48-1; P Strang 10-0-42-1.

ZIMBABWE

G W Flower c Parore b Larsen	46
C J Evans lbw b Morrison	1
G J Whittall run out	70
*†A Flower c Larsen b Thomson	21
A D Campbell c sub (Nash) b Thomson	23
S C Davies c Fleming b Thomson	3
H H Streak c Spearman b Larsen	17
P A Strang c Thomson b Larsen	11
E A Brandes b Morrison	7
S G Peall c Patel b Morrison	0
B C Strang not out	0
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 5)	11
Total (43.5 overs)	204

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-91, 3-117, 4-158, 5-170, 6-171, 7-193, 8-200, 9-200.

BOWLING: Morrison 8.5-0-34-3; Patel 10-0-44-0; Larsen 8-0-42-3; Astle 5-0-28-0; Thomson 10-1-32-3; Twose 4-0-22-0.

CASTLE CUP (third day of four): Durban: Natal 277 (D Crookes 111 not out); Western Province 78-7 (L Klusener 5-28). Port Elizabeth: Border 263 (P Strydom 50, T Shaw 6-45) and 39-2; Eastern Province 409 (L Koen 154, P Amm 83, D Callaghan 66; B Fourie 6-76). Pretoria: Boland 256 (K Jackson 100, Andrew Wessels 65; P S de Villiers 4-53); Northern Transvaal 85 (R Telemachus 4-25; C Henderson 4-33) and 129-3 (R Pienaar 50). Johannesburg: Transvaal 214 and 179-6 (N McKenzie 55 not out); F State 203-7 dec (K Venter 56 not out, H Bakkes 51 not out).

RED STRIPE CUP (second day of four): Kingston: Guyana 559-5 dec (S Chanderpaul 303 not out, R Harper 124, A Percival 78; J Grant 3-112); Jamaica 59-1. Pointe-a-Pierre: Barbados 337 and 171-6 (F Reifer 52 not out; A Samaroo 4-84); Trinidad and Tobago 263 (B Lara 77, P Simmons 53; O Gibson 4-79). Anguilla: Leeward Islands 320 (R Richardson 82, S Williams 77; R Marshall 6-71); Windward Islands 159 (K Benjamin 4-18) and 67-3.

Antoine Williame, left, of France, beating James Williams, of Great Britain, in the semi-final of the Corble Cup at the Spectrum Centre in Guildford. Williame was beaten by Guillaume Galvez, of France, in the final and Williams finished third. Photograph: Gill Allen

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup

Fifth round

Winnington Park 0 **Wasps** 57

Wasps: Tries: D Hopley 2, Dunn, P Hopley 2, Roiser, Ufton 3. Cons: Gregory 6.

Postponed: Leeds v London Irish, Leicester v Saracens, Wakefield v Bath

TOUR MATCH: Cancelled: Pontypridd v New South Wales

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Sixth round. North: North Shields 5 Ledbury 0. Postponed: Old Anselmians v Newton-le-Willows, Upton-upon-Severn v Wellingborough Old Grammarians; Yardley and District v Medicals. South: Helston 20 Folkestone 18. Postponed: Hadleigh v Enfield Ignatians, Old Bristolians v Old Ashmolean, Old Centralians v Battersea Ironsides.

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Postponed: Second division: Abercynon v Llanharan, Bonymaen v Caerphilly; Pontypool v Maesteg. Third division: Glamorgan Wndrs v Tredegar, Kenfig Hill v Blackwood, Mountain Ash v Cardiff Inst, Narberth v Penarth; Pyle v Blaina; Tondu v Builth Wells.

TENNENTS REGIONAL LEAGUE: Postponed: East one: Currie v Musselburgh; Haddington v Boroughmuir; Preston Lodge v Edinburgh Wndrs; Watsonians v Biggar. East two: Edinburgh Acads v Dundee HSFP; Grangemouth v Heriot's FP; Kirkcaldy v Corstorphine; Stewart's Mel FP v Gordonians. South: Gala v Langholm, Hawick v Peebles, Jed-Forest v Selkirk, Melrose v Kelso. West: Glasgow H K v Glasgow Acads; Glasgow Southern v Ayr, Kilmarnock v West of Scotland, Wigtownshire v Stirling County

CLUB MATCHES. Cancelled: Camborne v Penryn, Cambridge Univ v Richmond, Cheltenham v Gloucester OB, Fylde v Broughton Park; Henley v Bath Utd; Hull Ionians v Sale; Kendal v Hartlepool Rovers; Liverpool St Helens v Harrogate, Llanelli v Dunvant. London Welsh v Newbridge; Morley v Northern; Penzance v Redruth; Plymouth v Nuneaton, Rotherham v Orrell. Sandal v Tynedale. Sheffield v Manchester; South Wales Police v Treorchy, Swansea v Bridgend; Tabard v Wasps XV; Walsall v Rosslyn Park (2.15); Waterloo v Rugby (2.15).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Atlanta 96 Orlando 84, Indiana 107 Boston 80; New Jersey 115 Charlotte 107, LA Lakers 100 Philadelphia 88, Chicago 102 Miami 80; Phoenix 107 Milwaukee 97; San Antonio 87 Portland 83, Seattle 94 Utah 93, Golden State 124 Sacramento 118. Saturday: New York 104 Minnesota 95, LA Lakers 100 New Jersey 98, Washington 102 Vancouver 77, Charlotte 110 Philadelphia 105; Miami 102 Cleveland 85, Indiana 102 Orlando 79; Houston 105 Detroit 85, Portland 112 Dallas 103, Denver 92 Toronto 83, Utah 108 Golden State 91, Seattle 98 LA Clippers 87

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	30	12	.714	—
New York	26	15	.634	3½
Washington	21	21	.500	9
Miami	19	23	.452	11
New Jersey	17	25	.405	13
Boston	15	26	.366	14½
Philadelphia	7	34	.170	22½
Central division				
Chicago	37	3	.925	—
Indiana	28	14	.666	10
Atlanta	24	17	.585	13½
Cleveland	22	19	.537	15½
Detroit	21	19	.525	16
Charlotte	20	21	.488	17½
Milwaukee	15	25	.375	22
Toronto	12	30	.286	26

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	27	13	.675	—
Houston	29	15	.659	—
Utah	27	14	.659	½
Denver	17	25	.405	11
Dallas	13	27	.325	14
Minnesota	11	29	.275	16
Vancouver	10	32	.238	18
Pacific division				
Seattle	30	11	.732	—
Sacramento	22	16	.579	6½
LA Lakers	24	18	.571	6½
Portland	21	21	.500	9½
Phoenix	17	22	.436	12
Golden State	18	24	.429	12½
LA Clippers	16	25	.390	14

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 82 Doncaster 78; Hemel 71 Birmingham 87; Thames Valley 72 Manchester 73; Worthing 87 Leicester 81

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff 88 Solent 85; Mid-Sussex 70 Brixton 73. Postponed: Nottingham v Crystal Palace; Oldham and Rochdale v Plymouth; Ware v Bury. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham 78 Northampton 67; Plymouth 48 Spelthorne 75, Thames Valley 53 Rhondda 64. Postponed: Ipswich v Nottingham; Shefbald Hatters v Tyne and Wear.

WINTER SPORT

BIATHLON

VAL RIDANNA, Italy: European championships: Women (7.5km): 1, E Hakova (Cz) 28min 14.60sec; 2, S Mihokova (Slovakia) 28:32.70; 3, G Kuklieva (Russ) 28:42.80; 4, N Santer (It) 28:46.90; 5, O Romasko (Russ) 28:49.00; 6, A Grasic (Slovenia) 29:00.60.

BOBSLEIGH

ST MORITZ: European championships and World Cup finals: Two-man: European championship: 1, Germany I (C Langen, O Hampel) (1min 4.02sec, 1:04.12) 2min 8.14sec; 2, Switzerland I (1:04.30, 1:04.12) 2:08.42; 3, Germany II (1:04.45, 1:04.47) 2:08.92; 4, Italy I (1:04.47, 1:04.56) 2:09.03; 5, Latvia I (1:04.54, 1:04.51) 2:09.05; 6, Germany III (1:04.46, 1:04.72) 2:09.18. World Cup finals: 1, Germany I (1:04.02, 1:04.12) 2:08.14; 2, Canada I (1:04.14, 1:04.17) 2:08.31; 3, Switzerland I (1:04.30, 1:04.12) 2:08.42; 4, Canada II (1:04.32, 1:04.36) 2:08.68; 5, Germany II (1:04.45, 1:04.47) 2:08.92; 6, Italy I (1:04.47, 1:04.56) 2:09.03. Four man: European championship: 1, Germany II (C Langen, K Uwe Kohlert, M Zimmerman, O Hampel) (1:02.64, 1:02.38) 2:05.02; 2, Germany I (1:02.67, 1:02.42) 2:05.09; 3, Switzerland I (1:02.67, 1:02.54) 2:05.21; 4, Switzerland III (1:02.68, 1:02.60) 2:05.28; 5, Great Britain I (M Tout, D Ward, C Rumbold, L Paul) (1:03.03, 1:02.72) 2:05.75; 6, Switzerland II (1:02.95, 1:02.88) 2:05.83. World Cup finals: 1, Germany II (1:02.64, 1:02.38) 2:05.02; 2, Germany I (1:02.67, 1:02.42) 2:05.09; 3, Switzerland I (1:02.67, 1:02.54) 2:05.21; 4, Switzerland III (1:02.68, 1:02.60) 2:05.28; 5, Canada II (1:02.88, 1:02.85) 2:05.73; 6, Great Britain I (1:03.03, 1:02.72) 2:05.75.

WINTERBERG, Germany: Skeleton World Cup: 1, A Muller (Austria) 1.54.770; 2, Willie Schneider (Ger) 1.54.970; 3, R Davenport (Can); 18, R Rochester (GB) 1.57.710; 20, B Watson (GB) 1.57.970; 28, C Bromley (GB) 1.58.970.

FREESTYLE SKIING

MONT TREMBLANT, Quebec: World Cup: Acro-ski: Men: 1, R Khristiansen (Nor) 26.90pts; 2, H Baumgartner (Switz) 25.65; 3, I Edmondson (US) 24.90; equal 4, A Inberg (Fin) and K Hilpert (Switz) 24.15; 6, S Roxberg (US) 23.95. World Cup standings: 1, Baumgartner 398pts; 2, Edmondson 380; 3, Kristiansen 368; 4, Inberg 356; 5, Roxberg 338; 6, Hilpert 324. Women: 1, E Batalova (Russ) 26.95; 2, N Razumovskaya (Russ) 23.85; 3, A Johansson (Swe) 23.50; 4, A Magnusson (Swe) 22.80; 5, K Kubenk (Can) 22.75; 6, R Gutierrez (Sp) 22.20. World Cup standings: 1, Johansson 372; 2, Razumovskaya 356; 3, Batalova 356; 4, Magnusson 344; 5, O Kuschenko (Russ) 340; 6, Kubenk 340. Moguls: Men: 1, S Rocohon (Can) 26.20; 2, F Ougier (Fr) 25.24; 3, J Moseley (US) 24.59; 4, J Moran (US) 23.88; 5, N Cleaver (Aus) 23.36; 6, G Hager (US) 23.01. World Cup standings: 1, Moseley 388; 2, Moran 376; 3, Ougier 368; 4, Rochon, 366; 5, G Hager (US) 324; 6, L Niol (US) 312. Women: 1, M Karhu (Fin) 24.63; 2, T Mittermayer (Ger) 24.50; 3, C Gilg (Fr) 23.90; 4, A Battelle (US) 23.52; 5, D Weinbrecht (US) 23.47; 6, A Cattelin (Fr) 22.30. World Cup standings: 1, Weinbrecht 392; 2, C Gilg (Fr) 388; 3, Mittermayer 388; 4, Battelle 352; 5, Karhu 344; 6, Cattelin 308.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Fife 6 Basingstoke 2; Nottingham 8 Durham 3. Postponed: Milton Keynes v Newcastle; Sheffield v Cardiff. First division: Bracknell 4 Guildford 5; Chelmsford 3 Manchester 12; Dumfries 17 Medway 4; Murrayfield 6 Peterborough 3; Telford 1 Paisley 7. Postponed: Blackburn v Solihull; Swindon v Billingham.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Washington 1 Buffalo 0; Dallas 4 Calgary 2; Edmonton 4 NY Islanders 1. Saturday: Montreal 4 Winnipeg 1; NY Rangers 5 Boston 3; Pittsburgh 7 Philadelphia 4; Detroit 5 Chicago 5; St Louis 2 Tampa Bay 1; Colorado 4 San Jose 3 (OT); Los Angeles 5 Anaheim 4; New Jersey 4 Hartford 4; Toronto 2 Ottawa 2; Florida 6 Buffalo 3; Vancouver 6 NY Islanders 3.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
NY Rangers	30	11	9	69	187	138
Florida	30	13	5	65	172	130
Philadelphia	24	13	11	59	167	128
Washington	22	20	5	49	129	120
New Jersey	21	22	5	47	126	121
Tampa Bay	20	20	7	47	139	157
NY Islanders	12	27	8	32	133	179
Northeast division						
Pittsburgh	31	14	3	65	236	162
Montreal	23	19	6	52	150	147
Boston	20	19	6	46	162	167
Hartford	18	24	6	42	132	148
Buffalo	19	25	3	41	136	154
Ottawa	8	37	2	18	107	190

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Detroit	34	9	4	72	177	104
Chicago	25	15	11	61	172	141
Toronto	22	17	9	53	149	139
St Louis	20	19	8	48	127	130
Winnipeg	20	24	4	44	170	178
Dallas	14	23	10	38	131	164
Pacific division						
Colorado	26	14	9	61	189	138
Vancouver	17	19	12	46	176	164
Los Angeles	17	22	11	45	167	173
Calgary	17	23	9	43	144	155
Edmonton	18	24	6	42	133	183
Anaheim	17	27	5	39	139	166
San Jose	10	35	4	24	145	221

ICE SKATING

SOFIA: European championships: Women: Final standings (after free programme): 1, I Slutskaya (Russ) 2.0 factored placements; 2, S Bonaly (Fr) 2.5; 3, M Butyrskaya (Russ) 5.0; 4, Y Liashenko (Ukr) 6.5; 5, T Szewczenko (Ger) 6.5; 6, K Czako (Hun) 11.0. British non-qualifier: S Main (GB).

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	3	2	2	7
Ukraine	1	0	1	2
France	0	1	1	2
Germany	0	1	0	1

SKIING

SESTRIERE: World Cup: Men: Floodlit slalom: 1, M Reiter (Austria) (1min 1.05sec, 57.74) 1min 58.79sec; 2, T Sykora (Austria) (1:01.24, 57.71) 1:58.95; 3, T Stangassinger (Austria) (1:01.64, 57.56) 1:59.20; 4, A Miklavc (Slovenia) (1:01.99, 57.44) 1:59.43; 5, F de Crignis (It) (1:01.91, 57.54) 1:59.65; 6, O C Furuseth (Nor) (1:02.13, 57.77) 1:59.90. World Cup standings: Overall: 1, L Kjus (Nor) 958pts; 2, G Mader (Austria) 753; 3, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 738; 4, H Knaus (Austria) 685; 5, A Tomba (It) 616. Slalom: 1, S Amiez (Fr) 459; 2, Tomba 440; 3, Sykora 348; 4, Reiter 339; 5, J Kosir (Slovenia) 321; 6, Miklavc 283

SERRE CHEVALIER, France: World Cup: Women: Slalom: 1, C Riegler (NZ) (44.08sec, 47.21) 1min 31.27sec; 2, K Roten (Switz) (43.98, 47.58) 1:31.56; 3, P Wiberg (Swe) (44.77, 47.02) 1:31.79; 4, N Bokal (Slovenia) (44.33, 47.66) 1:31.99; 5, P Chauvet (Fr) (44.08, 48.10) 1:32.18; 6, A Wachter (Austria) (44.72, 48.15) 1:32.47. World Cup standings: Overall: 1, Wachter 875pts; 2, M Ertl (Ger) 784; 3, K Seizinger (Ger) 782; 4, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 632; 5, E Eder (Austria) 580; 6, P Wyberg (Swe) 585. Slalom: 1, Eder 590; 2, U Hrovat (Slovenia) 400; 3, M Kjoerstad (Nor) 338; 4, K Andersson (Swe) 338; 5, P Wiberg (Swe) 334; 6, M Accola (Switz) 320

SKI JUMPING

ZAKOPANE, Poland: World Cup: High hill events: Saturday: 1, P Peterka (Slovenia) (137.7m, 138.3) 276.0pts; 2, A Goldberger (Austria) (129.3, 135.2) 264.5; 3, R Schwarzenberger (Austria) (130.2, 127.5) 257.7; 4, A-P Nikkola (Fin) (130.7, 123.8) 254.5; equal 5, A Widhoelzl (Austria) (128.4, 123.0) and E Bredesen (Nor) (128.4, 123.0) 251.4. Yesterday: 1, Goldberger (122.5, 125.5) 267.3; 2, Peterka (120.0, 128.0) 263.3; 3, Nikkola (117.5, 121.5) 249.1; 4, R Ljoekelsoey (Nor) (115.5, 119.5) 242.4; 5, R Meglic (Slovenia) (119.5, 114.5) 240.1; 6, Bredesen (119.5, 114.5) 239.6. World Cup standings: 1, Nikkola 1,064pts; 2, Goldberger 894; 3, M Laitinen (Fin) 678; 4, J Weissflog (Ger) 624; 5, J Ahonen (Fin) 597; 6, H Saitoh (Japan) 545.

SPEED SKATING

BASELGA DI PINE, Italy: World Cup: Men: 1,500m: 1, H Noake (Japan) 1min 56.22sec; 2, N Marshall (Can) 1:56.48; 3, K Boutiette (US) 1:57.28; 4, R Ritsma (Holl) 1:57.65; equal 5, I Postma (Holl) and A Anufrienko (Russ) 1:57.78. World Cup standings: 1, Marshall 105pts; 2, Noake 102; 3, M Hersman (Holl) 99; 4, Ritsma 90; 5, Anufrienko 80. 5,000m: 1, G Romme (Holl) 6:47.42; 2, T Aoyanagi (Japan) 6:51.07; 3, Ritsma 6:54.53; 4, Boutiette 6:54.87; 5, F Dittrich (Ger) 6:55.37; 6, R Sighel (It) 6:55.52. World Cup standings: 1, Romme 140; 2, Ritsma 130; 3, K Shirahata (Japan) 96; 4, B Veldkamp (Bel) 90; 5, Dittrich 70. Women: 1,500m: 1, S Fedotkina (Russ) 2:08.20; 2, G Niemann (Ger) 2:08.61; 3, M Uehara (Japan) 2:08.99; 4, B de Loor (Holl) 2:09.38; 5, C Nozaki (Japan) 2:09.57; 6, M Tabata (Japan) 2:09.62. World Cup standings: 1, Uehara 118; 2, Niemann 115; 3, C Pechstein (Ger) 84; 4, S Bazanova (Russ) 71; 5, A Thomas (Holl) 69. 3,000m: 1, Niemann 4:17.35; 2, Bazanova 4:17.92; 3, E Belci (It) 4:19.86; 4, Pechstein 4:21.30; 5, Uehara 4:22.44; 6, C Zijlstra (Holl) 4:23.21. World Cup standings: 1, Pechstein 135; 2, Niemann 120; 3, Uehara 115; 4, Bazanova 93; 5, Belci 91.

SNOWBOARDING

LIENZ, Austria: World championships: Men: Giant slalom: 1, J Greenwood (US) 1min 50.18sec; 2, M Jacoby (US) 1:50.97; 3, H Pramstaller (Austria) 1:51.58.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Huddersfield 14 **Sheffield** 35

Huddersfield: Tries: Kebbie 2. Goals: Pearson 3. Sheffield: Tries: Dakuitoga, Dixon, Lawless 2, Sheridan, Stott. Goals: Crowther 4, Mycoe. Dropped goal: Stott. Att: 1,990.

Salford 35 **Featherstone** 12

Salford: Tries: Edwards, Forber, Lee, McAvoy, Savelio. Goals: Blakeley 7. Dropped goal: Hampson. Featherstone: Tries: Pearson 2. Goals: Pearson 2. Att: 2,116.

Wigan 74 **Bramley** 12

Wigan: Tries: Connolly, Cowie, Farrell 2, Offiah 4, Quinnell 2, Radlinski 2, Robinson, Tuigamala. Goals: Hall 5, Paul 4. Bramley: Tries: Stead, W Freeman. Goals: Creasser 2. Att: 4,627

POSTPONED: Bradford v Batley; Carlisle v Wakefield; Dewsbury v London Broncos. Hull v Hunslet; Hull K R v Leigh; Keighley v Barrow, Oldham v Warrington, Rochdale v Thatto Heath; Swinton v Leeds; Whitehaven v Halifax; Workington v Widnes. Saturday: Castleford v St Helens.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Heworth v Woolston; Lock Lane v Dudley Hill; Saddleworth v Millom.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Fourth round. West Hull 10 York 6.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

* denotes all-ticket match

FA Cup

Fourth round

*QPR v Chelsea (8.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League

Third division

Doncaster v Lincoln

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: UniBond League v English Universities (at Lancaster City FC).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Great Harwood

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Ruislip Manor v Bognor Regis

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers v Tottenham. Second division: Postponed: Cheltenham v Cardiff.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham City v Wolverhampton (7.0). Second division: Coventry v Aston Villa (7.0). Mansfield v Port Vale (7.0)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round replay: Welling v Rothwell (7.45). First round second replays: Hyde v Marine; Enfield v Hayes, Trowbridge Tn v Sudbury Tn (7.45). Dover v Cheltenham (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Ayr (1.40). Plumpton (1.50); Southwell (AW, 2.0)

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland v Tranmere. Second division: Brentford v Wycombe (7.45); Burnley v Oxford United. Third division: Barnet v Torquay (7.45); Darlington v Preston (7.45); Exeter v Hartlepool (7.45); Fulham v Scunthorpe (7.45); Gillingham v Mansfield (7.45). Northampton v Plymouth (7.45); Wigan v Colchester (7.45).

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final: Birmingham v West Bromwich (7.45)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern Section: Semi-final, first Leg: Carlisle v Chesterfield (7.45). Rotherham v York. Southern Section: Semi-final, first leg: Peterborough v Bristol Rovers (7.45).

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Motherwell v Aberdeen (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v Dumbarton. Second division: Ayr v Clyde; Berwick v Forfar.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield v Altrincham (7.45); Northwich v Bromsgrove (7.45); Telford v Kidderminster (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated

CLUB MATCHES: Bath v Cardiff (7.30); Cross Keys v Llanelli; Dunvant v Swansea; Maesteg v Penarth, Tondu v Treorchy. Wasps v Loughborough Student (7.30)

WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Pool C: Caerphilly v Llanharan.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Keighley v Barrow (8.0)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Musselburgh (1.20); Nottingham (1.30); Lingfield Park (AW, 1.40).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Liverpool (7.45), Nottingham Forest v Leeds (7.45); Southampton v Manchester City, West Ham v Coventry (7.45)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Luton v Sheffield United (7.45). Second division: Bradford v Crewe (7.45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern Section: Semi-final, first Leg: Shrewsbury v Hereford

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead v Morecambe (7.45).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Hamilton, Dunfermline v St Johnstone; St Mirren v Greenock Morton (7.45). Second division: East Fife v Queen Of South. Third division: Albion v Caley This, Ross County v Livingston.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: England A v New South Wales (Leicester, 7.15).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Civil Service v Royal Navy (at Chiswick, 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Dewsbury v London Broncos (7.30); Workington v Widnes (8.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Sheffield (8.0).

BOXING: European middleweight championship. Richie Woodhall (Telford, holder) v Derek Wormald (Rochdale). Commonwealth middleweight championship: Robert McCracken (Birmingham, holder) v Paul Busby (Worcester) (Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham)

RACING: Leicester (1.45); Windsor (1.30); Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

THURSDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Bradford v Batley (7.30); Whitehaven v Halifax (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Hemel Royals (7.30)

RACING: Sedgefield (1.40); Towcester (1.30); Lingfield (AW, 1.50).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

A INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v France (Myreside, 2.30).

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v France (Myreside, 1.0).

TOUR MATCH: Leinster v New South Wales (Lansdowne Road, 7.15).

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v Blaina (7.0); Askeans v Westcombe Park, Bedford v Saracens (8.0); Berry Hill v Stroud (7.0); Blackheath v Harrogate, Builth Wells v Llandovery (7.0); Cambridge University v Sale (7.15); Cross Keys v Tredegar (7.0); Dunvant v Mountain Ash (7.0); Exeter v Weston-super-Mare; Gloucester v Pontypool (7.0); Leicester v Coventry (7.15); London Irish v South Wales Police; Lydney v Monmouth (7.0); Moseley v Gtr Birmingham; Pontypridd v Bristol (7.0); Richmond v Met Police; Stourbridge v Nottingham; Swansea v Bath (7.0); Treorchy v Cheltenham (7.0); Walsall v Worcester (7.15); Wasps v Bridgend

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor Championships (National Arena, Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Towers v Birmingham Bullets (8.0).

BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Antrim).

RACING: Folkestone (1.10); Kelso (1.20); Southwell (AW, 2.0)

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meeting (Cardiff)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Coventry; Aston Villa v Leeds; Blackburn v Bolton; Liverpool v Tottenham; Manchester City v Queens Park Rangers; Newcastle v Sheffield Wednesday; Southampton v Everton; West Ham v Nottingham Forest; *Wimbledon v Manchester United.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Watford; Grimsby v Derby; Huddersfield v Tranmere; Ipswich v West Bromwich; Leicester v Luton; Sheffield United v Oldham; Southend v Millwall; Wolverhampton v Sunderland. Second division: Blackpool v Hull; Bournemouth v Wycombe; Brentford v Burnley; Brighton v Wrexham; Bristol Rovers v Walsall; Chesterfield v Swansea; Crewe v York; Notts County v Peterborough; Rotherham v Oxford United; Shrewsbury v Bradford; Stockport v Bristol City; Swindon v Carlisle. Third division: Barnet v Scunthorpe; Bury v Hereford; Cambridge United v Gillingham; Cardiff v Doncaster; Darlington v Leyton Orient; Hartlepool v Rochdale; Lincoln v Colchester; Mansfield v Northampton; Plymouth v Chester; Scarborough v Exeter; Torquay v Fulham; *Wigan v Preston.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Welling; Farnborough v Southport; Halifax v Hednesford; Kettering v Gateshead, Kidderminster v Dagenham and Red; Macclesfield v Northwich; Slough v Telford; Stalybridge v Dover; Stevenage v Runcorn; Woking v Bromsgrove

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Hibernian; Falkirk v Kilmarnock; Hearts v Raith; Motherwell v Aberdeen; Partick v Rangers. First division: Airdrie v Clydebank; Dundee United v St Johnstone; Dunfermline v Dundee; Greenock Morton v Hamilton, St Mirren v Dumbarton. Second division: Ayr v Stenhousemuir; East Fife v Clyde, Montrose v Berwick; Stirling v Queen Of South; Stranraer v Forfar. Third division: Albion v East Stirling; Alloa v Ross County; Arbroath v Queen's Park; Caley This v Cowdenbeath; Livingston v Brechin

RUGBY UNION

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: England v Wales (Twickenham, 3.0); Scotland v France (Murrayfield, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Hull v Hunslet (3.15).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor Championships (National Arena, Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v Chester (7.30); Leicester v Newcastle (7.30); Manchester v Worthing (7.30); Hemel v Thames Valley (7.30).

BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Antrim).

BOXING: European lightweight championship: Angel Mona (Fr, holder) v Michael Ayers (Streatham) (Levallois Perret, Paris).

RACING: Chepstow (1.0); Sandown (1.20); Wetherby (1.10); Lingfield Park (AW, 1.45).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meeting (Cardiff).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea v Middlesbrough (4.0).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Crystal Palace (2.55); Norwich v Birmingham; *Port Vale v Stoke (12.0); Reading v Portsmouth (2.55).

RUGBY UNION

CIS under-21 championship: North v Midlands (Otley, 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Rochdale v Thatto Heath (3.0)

JOHN SMITH'S UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Great Britain v France (South Leeds Stadium, 3.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor Championships (National Arena, Birmingham)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Leicester (5.0); Doncaster v Leopards (5.30); London v Hemel (5.0); Newcastle v Derby (6.0); Sheffield v Manchester (6.15).

BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Antrim).

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meeting

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هكذا من الأصل

Rodber back in another England reshuffle

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND have decided on their half-back combination for this season, but it would be comforting for their supporters if another crucial area of a rugby union team, the back row, could be similarly settled. Yesterday, for the fifth successive international, change was in the air.

Tim Rodber, having been *dropped for the opening five* nations' championship match against France, returns to play Wales at Twickenham on Saturday at the expense of Steve Ojomoh. Thus the back row which played against Western Samoa in December is reconstituted without too much evidence to show why.

Rodber has not played since January 6, when he damaged knee and ankle ligaments playing for Northampton against Nottingham. He appeared at England's four-day training camp at Bisham Abbey clutching a walking stick, though England's medical *team* has assured the management that his recovery is now complete.

Yet, when the XV which ultimately lost 15-12 to France *was named*, Jack Rowell *said* that Rodber's game had been "off-key" for a while and that he had yet to turn the corner to reclaim the form of 1994. Since then there has been no opportunity for Rodber to show he is even approaching the corner, yet alone rounding it, which suggests that all the management wanted to administer was a short, sharp shock.

"Tim has had a kick where it hurts and I'm looking for him to bounce back refreshed," Rowell said before England trained at the indoor facility at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill, yesterday. "He *hasn't played for a couple* of weeks but he has been training and the doctors tell me he's fit and ready for the fray."

More to the point, Rodber occupies the position which proved an embarrassment for England in Paris: at Northampton and in 16 internationals for England, he has played just behind Martin Bayfield in the lineout, the position of minder which Mike Teague used to occupy so effectively.

ENGLAND: M J Catt (Bath); J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF); P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), M O Johnson (Leicester), M C Bayfield (Northampton), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), B B Clarke (Bath). Replacements: J E B Callard (Bath), P R de Glanville (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bristol), R G R Dawe (Bath), V E Ubogu (Bath), D Richards (Leicester).

"Tim *has a longstanding* partnership with Bayfield which should give more assurance at the lineout," Rowell said. "In Paris, the lineout was getting back to a free-for-all. We went into the game with a strategy that, if Martin [Bayfield] was taken out, as he repeatedly was, the ball would be thrown in elsewhere. On the day, we didn't do that and suffered accordingly."

Thus Ojomoh, it may be said, suffers not only for permitting the immensely experienced Olivier Roumat to barge across the lineout but also for the failure of either Ben Clarke, the pack leader, or Will Carling, the captain, to vary the lineout calls. Wales, by comparison a callow side, should offer nothing like the *same problem*.

"No one likes to be dropped," Rodber, whose 23rd cap it will be, said, "but there were areas of my game I had to work on and personally, perhaps I bring a bit of edge into the game. I have been given another chance and I would be a fool not to make it count. Saturday will be a huge challenge, mentally and physically, it becomes one of the big games of my career."

Though there are no other changes, other individuals know that they cannot afford another indifferent display. Though he chose not to disclose to whom he has spoken, Rowell said certain players "know where they stand"; one assumes that Bayfield, Mike Catt and Jason Leonard may *have received the benefit of the* manager's opinion.

Carling, suffering from a haematoma on the knee, did not train yesterday and Rory Underwood, with a strained back, took things easy. Both should be fit when England regroup on Wednesday, by which time Wales will have announced their XV. *This* evening, they will check on the fitness of Neil Jenkins in a private training match, the Pontypridd stand-off half having missed the chance of demonstrating his recovery from a shoulder injury when the weather forced a cancellation of the game against New South Wales on Saturday.

Those who would return Jonathan Davies to the Wales team must gnaw their nails *with impatience again: the* Cardiff player had keyhole surgery on a cartilage on Saturday and will play little rugby next month. The choice for the No 10 jersey in the team which will be named tomorrow lies, therefore, between Jenkins and Arwel Thomas, who played against Italy.

Amateurism the winner as Winnington feel the heat

Winnington Park 0
Wasps 57

By David Hands

WASPS, at the sharp end of the professional game in England, may be the only club *definitely through to the quarter-finals* of the Pilkington Cup, but Saturday at Burrows Hill in Northwich was a victory for amateurism.

Amid the worst winter's day for sport in 33 years, the members of Winnington Park rolled up their sleeves and made sure that not even the weather could deprive them of the biggest day in their 89-year history. When a man driving a JCB rolls up unexpectedly at your clubhouse and asks if he can lend a hand, then truly your sport is on the local map.

The secret now for Winnington Park is how much of their successful cup campaign will rub off on their league season. The crowd of 800 who cheered them through the fourth round *against Lydney swelled to* more than 2,000 for the visit of Wasps, despite the sub-zero temperatures.

The jaunty sounds of a jazz *band wafted through the* frosty air as the crowd climbed down from bales of straw contributed by Park's farming No 8, Richard Sproston, to hold the protective tarpaulins in place — better straw seats than frozen terraces covered with snow, which forced England's grander venues to postpone their cup ties for safety reasons. Just as jaunty was John Farr, Winnington Park's scrum half, who lacks nothing in ambition.

Farr, a Crewe boy, returned this season from Bedford to Crewe and Alsager College to study for a teaching diploma, but Winnington Park do not expect to retain him for long. "He can go all the way — if he wants to," Doug Hill, the club coach, said, a sentiment echoed by Dewi Morris, England's World Cup scrum half, who should know.

Farr, like Morris, is a comparatively late entrant for international honours at 25. "His pace is good, his perception of the game is excellent but his kicking sometimes lets him down," Hill said.

It was what Farr did with the ball in his hands that worried Wasps: even behind a retreating pack, badly beaten at the lineout, Farr bounced hither and yon and, with a *shred of luck, would have laid* on a try for *Bird* or for his older brother, Matt.

He seeks to confront the future head on: Northampton, *home of the present England* No 9, Matt Dawson, are said to be interested, and Farr's approach is that, if he has to displace Dawson for the England *shirt, then he might as* well begin at club level. "First-division rugby would get me a bit more exposure and for that you have to play behind a pack that's winning ball," Farr said. "Northampton are well-equipped to do that."

Amid the homely clamour Wasps departed, job done. "If we're going to be professional, we have to play in all conditions, against all kinds of opponents," Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain, said. Not that there was any doubt in Wasps' minds that the game would go ahead on a pitch which yielded slightly.

Effectively, the tie was over within the first quarter, by which time Ufton had scored three tries and Winnington Park, playing up the slope, *had proved slightly starstruck*. Their every forward motion earned a cheer, but it was not until the third quarter that they summoned up the collective energy to threaten the Wasps line.

Sproston and Bebbington were both brought back for minor infringements but Wasps were not in the mood to concede romantic tries, and the final quarter proved beneficial for the Hopley family. Damian, the younger brother, used his strength and speed to cruise away for two tries, then left Phil to plant the final darts.

Yet it remained the day of the self-proclaimed amateurs; they will continue to contribute players to the professional ranks while remaining the backbone of a game still thriving on family values.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Ufton (3), D Hopley (2), P Hopley (2), Dunn, Roiser Conversions: Gregory (6).
WINNINGTON PARK: R Oliver; A Bird, S Ogdon, M Farr, J Owens; G Lloyd, J Farr; D Alcock, *I Taylor, I Davies, M Bebbington*, P Rees, D Nicholls, N Yardley, R Sproston. Lloyd replaced by P Gibson (74min)
WASPS: J Ufton; P Hopley, D Hopley, A James, S Roiser; G Gregory, S Bates; D Molloy, K Dunn, I Dunston, M White, M Greenwood, R Kinsey, C Wilkins, L Dallaglio. *P Hopley replaced by L Scrase (78)*
Referee: J Wallis (Somerset)

Sampson, left, and Bayfield prepare for tackling practice at the England squad training session yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Schoolboy Sampson passes England test

Andrew Longmore on a weekend to remember for a teenager heading for international rugby

Pupils at Woodhouse Grove School near Bradford will this morning take delivery of two rugby balls, autographed mementoes of an away-day to stardom donated by the school's most celebrated athlete. Whether Paul Sampson, the newest and youngest recruit to the England rugby union squad and the symbol of the coaching regime's commitment to youth, will return to school life with undiluted enthusiasm remains to be seen.

For a momentous 24 hours from Saturday lunchtime, Sampson, 18, entered the world of the professional rugby player. If, at times, he looked exactly what he was — a lost schoolboy — he would not be the first winger in the squad to feel a sense of isolation. By the end of the training session yesterday, he was beginning to find his feet. That was the object of the exercise, after all.

"This is big stuff, the big time," Sampson said. "This time last week, I would never have dreamt of doing something like this. I've not felt out of my depth at all, but I have got to remain on the level about it, go back to school and live normally again."

Phil de Glanville had been chosen by the management to chaperone the new boy through a weekend that could have been as much ordeal as dream. The Bath centre was Sampson's room-mate and guide, even down to buying the drinks in the snug at The Roebuck in Richmond. "He seemed a good lad," de Glanville said. "I don't think he'll have a problem keeping his feet firmly on the ground."

In the confines of the impressive new indoor facility at St Mary's University College in Twickenham, Sampson had little chance to take his feet off the ground, to show the pace that has brought him a host of junior sprint titles in Yorkshire and made him one of the prime candidates to benefit from the "fast track" programme of development encouraged by Jack Rowell, the England manager, and Les Cusworth, the coach.

Nor was there much sign of the usual robust welcome accorded tender members of the squad by the grizzled artisans of the pack. There was the odd bump with a tackle bag but otherwise the bruises were mainly verbal. "The usual bravado and banter," as Sampson called it, nothing that a player of his pedigree could not withstand. His father is a former rugby league player with Bradford Northern, and his cousin, Dean, played for England in the rugby league World Cup. His mother was a good athlete.

"So he knows what two and two make," Cusworth said. "The idea was to give him a taste of what international rugby is about and the experience can only do him good. The important thing is not to push him too quickly."

And yet the French and New Zealanders think little of blooding teenagers in their national side. At 12st and 5ft 11in, Sampson is on the slight side for an international winger these days, and a programme of weight-training has been designed to help *him. Cusworth sees no reason why*, next season, the crew-cut young man from the village of Thackley in north Yorkshire should not be close to full international selection.

In the meantime, Sampson has other business in hand. Today he goes back to the classroom to wrestle with Shakespeare and Dickens, and next weekend he plays for England Colts against London. What memory, though, will he take from his weekend with the full England side?

"Probably the team meeting. Sitting alongside Will Carling and Jerry Guscott. It was nothing too technical, just about things which make the team tick. I'm here to absorb some of the international atmosphere, take some of the experience away with me *to improve my game*."

As he made his way home yesterday, Sampson's thoughts must have strayed ahead, along with those of Rowell. "We have to look beyond what we can see, select players for the future," Rowell said.

"This young man has all the mental and physical attributes to be one of them." Or, as Cusworth put it: "He's tasted it now, hasn't he?"

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Lawless enforces Huddersfield's punishment

Huddersfield 14
Sheffield Eagles 35

By Christopher Irvine

SHEFFIELD Eagles proved businesslike in clearing an awkward hurdle to join Wigan, Salford and, unlikeliest of all, the amateurs of West Hull as winners in the draw tonight for the fifth round of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup.

In the one tie east of the Pennines to survive yesterday, at the start of what is officially *rugby league's first spring*-summer season, Sheffield earned a straightforward passage as Huddersfield's spirited effort in drawing 10-10 at the break quickly subsided.

Sheffield have never advanced beyond the last 16, a curious anomaly they will look to correct, given a reasonable draw. As a side that finished fifth in the recent Stones Championship, due mainly to a nine-match winning run before losing to Wigan and Oldham at the end, many teams will be hoping to avoid them.

Although below strength, *the visitors were not without* quality in key positions. Huddersfield had little clue as to how to stop the damaging incursions of Johnny Lawless, the Sheffield hooker, from acting half, which brought him tries in either half.

When Sheffield lost Mycoe with knee ligament damage in the twelfth minute, Crowther showed himself a live-wire deputy, in company with Sheridan's vision at scrum half, while the driving play, of Hughes, Broadbent and Hay, especially, sapped the first division side's energies.

Huddersfield had four members of their Academy team on duty, yet were far from the easy opposition their results in recent months had suggested. Hanger often called the tune at stand-off, Marcus St Hilaire timed his runs from full back to perfection and the finishing of Kebbie in scoring twice on the right wing rattled Sheffield, before class and experience ultimately overwhelmed them.

There are signs that Darryl Van de Velde, who arrived before Christmas, has instilled a steelier determination at Huddersfield. The Australian coach was tempted by the club's facilities which, all bar Sheffield's home at the Don Valley Stadium, put Super League clubs to shame. All it lacks is the team, but with financial input from a local businessman, Ken Davy, recently installed as chairman, the money to meet Van de Velde's ambitions may come.

It is little satisfaction that Huddersfield now have the time to prepare for summer proper, with their elimination from a competition in which their record of triumphs is third only to Wigan and Leeds. The last of those was 1962, and although they reached the quarter-finals last season, it was an isolated success. Halifax were beaten in their run last year, but all hopes of another big scalp went with Lawless's second touchdown within a minute of the restart.

From a bad start in conceding tries to Sheridan and Lawless in the first 15 minutes, Huddersfield warmed to their task with an excellent build-up to Kebbie's first try. The wing again squeezed over at the right corner when Hanger held up the Sheffield cover.

Apart from two penalties by Pearce, Huddersfield had little look-in in the second period. Hay intercepted a pass by Marsden to put Stott clear. The second-row forward was involved in a subsequent try by the Fijian, Dakuitoga, before Dixon plunged beneath the posts at the end.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Tries: Kebbie (2) Goals: Pearce (3). Sheffield: Tries: Lawless (2), Sheridan, Stott, Dakuitoga, Dixon. Goals: Crowther (4), Mycoe Dropped goal: Stott
HUDDERSFIELD: M St Hilaire, B Kebbie, D Shelford, J Bunyan, S Reynolds; D Hanger (sub: A Moore, 70min), S Kenny; R Marsden, L St Hilaire, A Pucill (sub: L Milner, 47), B Richards, A Wilson (sub: Pucill, 66), G Pearce
SHEFFIELD EAGLES: M Garrison; J Dakuitoga, L Stott, R Price, J-M Garcia; D Mycoe (sub: M Crowther, 11), R Sheridan, P Broadbent (sub: Dixon, 74), J Lawless, P Dixon (sub: Laughton 60), A Hay, I Hughes, F Cook.
Referee: S Presley.

Offiah leads Wigan on 14-try charge

Radlinski: on mark

MARTIN OFFIAH romped over for four tries as Wigan, the holders, stretched their unbeaten Silk Cut Challenge Cup record to 43 matches in a 14-try, 74-12 rout of Bramley at Central Park yesterday.

Bramley, of the second division, emerged with credit for a spirited performance, particularly in the first half, before Wigan's *superior* pace and power told.

It was Wigan's highest score in their record run, beating the 72 points they *scored against* Rochdale in 1991. Shaun Edwards, the man of the match, who successfully appealed against suspension to play, set the ball rolling by creating the first four tries, scored by Scott Quinnell, Gary Connolly, Offiah and Kris Radlinski.

Jason Robinson and Radlinski completed the first-half scores, and Wigan took control in the second half as Offiah raced in for three more. Andy Farrell, the loose forward, marked his return after injury with a couple and there were further scores for Quinnell, Neil Cowie and Va'aiga Tuigamala.

Salford completed a hat-trick of wins against Featherstone with a 35-12 triumph yesterday.

Nathan McAvoy's try early in the second half proved the decisive score to open up an 18-6 lead and break Featherstone's resistance.

Salford dominated the final 20 minutes, finishing with a flourish of tries by Mark Lee and Paul Forber. Lokeni Savelio and Peter Edwards were their other try-scorers.

Sri Lanka respond positively to tough challenge

By Our Sports Staff

SRI LANKA made a determined start in pursuit of a daunting victory target in the third and final Test match against Australia in Adelaide yesterday after cutting short the farewell innings of David Boon, the veteran batsman. In his final visit to the crease before retiring from international cricket, Boon made 35 as Australia set Sri Lanka 401 to win.

At close of play on the fourth day, Sri Lanka were 69 for one, still needing another 332 runs to win — or more realistically to bat throughout the final day to avoid a 3-0 series whitewash.

Sri Lanka lost Chandika Hathurusinghe for 14 when he edged a catch to wicketkeeper Ian Healy off the final ball of Glenn McGrath's six-over spell with the new ball. But his fellow opener, Sanath Jayasuriya, safely negotiated the remaining seven overs to finish on 50 not out, an innings which has already contained two sixes.

The Sri Lankans enhanced their prospects by restricting Australia's scoring rate to below three runs an over with an accurate and determined bowling *performance* earlier in the day. Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, finally declared 40 minutes after the tea interval with his side on 215 for six.

Scoreboard 29

Steve Waugh, who scored a century in Australia's first innings of 502 for nine declared, remained unbeaten on 61, *lifting his average to just* above 50 in 81 Tests. Waugh, batting at No 5, occupied the crease for one minute over three hours in scoring his runs from 129 balls.

Chaminda Vaas, the left-arm fast-medium bowler, provided the inspiration for Sri Lanka by taking the wickets of Boon, Mark Waugh and Ricky Ponting at a cost of 44 runs from 21 overs.

On his 107th Test appearance for his country, Boon, 35, batted with authority for 92 minutes after surviving a confident appeal for caught behind first ball. He remained to *face 65 balls before edging* a catch to Romesh Kaluwitharana, the wicketkeeper, just before lunch, prompting an ovation from the crowd and *the Sri Lankan players as he* walked slowly back to the pavilion.

It left Boon, who scored 43 in Australia's first innings, with an aggregate of 7,422 runs at an average of 43.66 in a Test career spanning 12 years.

Astle hits dashing hundred

NATHAN ASTLE scored an impressive century to help New Zealand to a 74-run victory over Zimbabwe in the first of three limited-overs cricket internationals, in Auckland yesterday.

Astle completed his second century in 15 matches in compiling 120 from 137 balls as New Zealand scored 278 for five, then dismissed Zimbabwe for 204 in the 44th over.

Zimbabwe were up with the required run-rate until the thirtieth over of their innings, when they lost Guy Whittall (70) with the score at 158.

Whittall had been Zimbabwe's *main hope for victory*, scoring his runs off 73 balls, before he was run out after being sent back by Alistair Campbell. Zimbabwe then lost wickets at regular intervals, most to catches in the deep as the target faded out of reach.

Shane Thomson, Gavin Larsen and Danny Morrison each took three wickets, with Morrison bowling Eddo Brandes to end the match.

New Zealand looked in control from the moment Lee Germon, *the captain, won the* toss and opted to bat on the flat wicket. Opening the batting, Astle accumulated runs at a steady and controlled rate. *He hit* 13 fours and a six before he was fourth man out with the score on 232 in the 45th over.

Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire player, contributed 53 in 69 balls, putting on 135 for the third wicket with Astle. Heath Streak, with one for 32 from *ten overs, was the* best bowler.

The second game in the three-match series will be played in Wellington on Wednesday.

هكذا من الأحوال

From a church deacon to barbershop singers, the London Marathon is open to all, says **John Goodbody**

On your marks for the people's race

Every runner in the Flora London Marathon has a story to tell. One reason for the success of the event has been the variety of competitors. who run or jog. walk or stumble 26 miles and 385 yards from Greenwich to the Mall.

One fascination of the race is the histories and ambitions of these competitors. The event is not just for the international elite. It is for club runners. It is for keep-fit enthusiasts and even for unfit enthusiasts — people whose imagination has been ignited by the thought of conquering the mythic distance.

All have their motives for running. A few are racing for money or a place in Britain's team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Most take part in the event for self-satisfaction, for a lifetime memory in having completed the distance. Some gain a particular incentive from knowing that they are raising money for a worthwhile charity.

In the hours of training and on the day itself, the thought that keeps so many people going is the money that they are raising for their good cause.

Since 1981, it has been estimated that more than £50 million has been raised through sponsoring individual runners. The surplus from organising the event each year goes to the London Marathon Charitable Trust, which gives grants for recreational facilities in the capital.

The London Marathon has recognised this phenomenon by setting up the "Golden Bond" scheme. This gives each charity or company five guaranteed entries in all the London Marathons for the next five years. A "Golden Bond" costs £5,000, and for the 1996 race 512 organisations have signed up.

The scheme brings together disparate people with the most widely varying backgrounds — people such as the Reverend Mary Vickers, who lives with her army chaplain husband, Peter, in Germany, and Dr Jon Perry, a radiologist from Plymouth, who is leading a group of 21 barbershop singers, who will stop at every milepost and sing to the spectators. It is scarcely a way of recovering your breath during a marathon.

Singalong: Jon Perry, front, will lead his barbershop runners

SPORT FOR ALL

Mrs Vickers, 38, is running for the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG), one of the oldest Anglican mission agencies. Last year, it raised £28,000 through its five runners, more than any other charity. This year, sponsorship will go towards the needs of disabled people in the developing world.

Mrs Vickers comes to the race through a solid background in running, although she began exercising regularly only in recent years. A former squash player, she was a laboratory assistant with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Liverpool before going to St John's Theological College in Nottingham. She was ordained as a deacon in Worcester in 1987, but it was only in 1989 that she began running.

"I was at the stage when, as my doctor said: 'You are either sitting in a car going to a meeting, sitting in a meeting or sitting at your desk.' I thought I would have a go at running. I never liked aerobics. It was immensely boring, hopping up-and-down on the spot. I like to have things measured."

> 'I went out in torrential rain and knew that I was either mad or hooked on running — then I realised I was hooked'

When Mrs Vickers started running, she was "horrified" to find that she could go only about 100 yards without stopping. She eventually built up to 2.5 miles but began suffering from a bad back (nothing to do with running, she insists) and decided "that was enough running for me".

She moved with her husband to Germany in 1992 but when he was posted to Belfast with the King's Royal Hussars, she remained in Munster and joined a women's running club. "I went out first for two and a half minutes without stopping and then three minutes."

She continued running. One day, there was torrential rain and she could hardly see through her glasses. "I knew I was either mad or hooked. After a while I realised I was hooked."

Mrs Vickers is now training three or four times a week, although her greatest worry is the sheer distance of the event. She was most relieved to learn that the London Marathon is relatively flat, because the countryside round Munster has few hills.

She may run the event with her husband. "We will just see how our training goes. I am not bothered about the time. I just want to complete the event."

For Dr Perry, the event will be rather different from most of the other 26,000 runners. He will be shepherding the barbershop singers round the course as he raises money for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre, which helps sufferers who are in need of help and advice.

The runners have to stick together and so will be going at the speed of their slowest member. They will be singing at each milepost, such traditional favourites as *I'll take you home, Kathleen* and *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Dr Perry, 35, now works in the military unit at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth after a spell in his twenties on *HMS Revenge*, the Polaris nuclear deterrent submarine. It was in Devon that he first heard the local barbershop singers. "I was absolutely transfixed by the sound. It was the simple but melodious harmony of it."

He had always been interested in music in his youth, playing both the piano and the French horn, but still found time to reach county level as a sprinter. However, he began long-distance running regularly only in 1994.

"I have never been that fit but my wife, Mandy, ran the London Marathon last year and that inspired me." He is now running four times a week and will be building up to complete 20 miles, three weeks before the race.

The barbershop singers are looking for a lightweight version of the striped waistcoats that they use for public display. They hope to wear it on race-day on April 21. They want to do their best, both physically and vocally. "While everyone is limbering up at Greenwich, we will be doing our voice exercises."

● *Details of the Golden Bond scheme can be obtained from David Bedford on 0171-620-4117. Sponsorship details for the USPG can be obtained from 0171-928-8681 and for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre from 01279-817101.*

ROLAND LEON

In training: Peter and Mary Vickers — Mrs Vickers will be raising money for a mission society

And now for a round of Cracky Crab

After all that running, a gripping alternative

Some people swear by aromatherapy. Others recommend shiatsu massage, or listening to tapes of a panda's heart, beating in the womb. My method of stress busting is less exotic, it is found in my local amusement arcade and a game called Cracky Crab.

To most people, arcades are the modern equivalent of Dante's Inferno. But if you fumble your way past the flickering screens and the mad-eyed Hell's Angels you can usually find some silly, old-fashioned fun, for which Cracky Crab takes star billing.

Cracky is not a sophisticated game. It consists of four leering plastic crabs, on different levels, who dart out of their burrows and scuttle across the board. Your task is to grab a vast mallet and whack as many as possible before they dodge back. The real attraction here is the sound effects. Once struck, the crab emits a wail of anguish: the harder you hit, the harder it protests.

Each crab has a slightly different howl, so a good game should sound like this. "Ooh, Uh, Aah, Aah, Oow, Uh, Oow, Aah, Ooh." If you score more than 40 points in two minutes, you will go into extra time, whereupon the crabs will behave as if they are racing across hot coals.

The more points are scored, the more tickets are spewed out by the machine. Resist handing them over to the *cadaverous youths who tell* you they are collecting for their handicapped sister's birthday and at the end you will be able to exchange them at the prize booth. Even with a pathetic score you should be able to win a few sweeties. After several rounds of "very goods" you will go home with a plastic lighter, a Fred Flintstone keyring or a stash of temporary tatoos, which will help you feel more at home on your next visit.

Everyone has their own style of play. I favour leaning forward and grasping the hammer in both hands for maximum moan factor. Others leap up and down, wielding their weapon like a lassoo. Some (boo, hiss) have been known to cheat by getting their friends to smack the crabs with their bare hands, but this is only done at extreme risk to the fingers.

If the NHS were to start dispensing Cracky Crab tokens, I am convinced that stress statistics would halve. Cracky makes you laugh, it is excellent exercise for the upper body and, if the crabs' malevolent faces could be replaced with pictures of your spouse, your boss or your builders, it would be the most-played game in the land.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

● *Cracky Crab can be found at the*

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

North:
♠ J 8 6
♥ A 9 7
♦ A K Q 7 2
♣ 9 3

West:
♠ K 10 9 5 3
♥ 5 4
♦ J 10 9 8 3
♣ 8

East:
♠ 2
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 5
♣ J 10 7 5 4 2

South:
♠ A Q 7 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ 6 4
♣ A K Q 6

S	W	N	E
1 C	Pass	1 D	Pass
2 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

Contract: 6NT by South. Lead: jack of diamonds

Six No-Trumps is not a particularly good contract. It succeeds if the diamonds are 3-3; in addition there are some peripheral squeeze chances, but I shouldn't think they add up to make the contract over 50%, the probability you need for a small slam to be worth bidding.

The declarer was Bob Brinig, a regular at TGR's. He won the diamond in dummy and played a spade to the queen and king. West returned the ten of spades to dummy's jack. When East showed out on the king of diamonds prospects looked pretty hopeless: declarer only had two tricks in spades, two in hearts, three in diamonds and three in clubs. With the idea of squeezing West in the pointed suits to get out for one off, Brining decided to duck a club to 'rectify the count', a necessary preliminary in most squeeze plays. So he led the nine of clubs from dummy: East played low, South played low and so the nine held the trick. East's duck was not unreasonable. He was afraid that South's clubs were AKQ86, and in that event covering would give away the position.

After the nine of clubs had held, Brining cashed all the clubs, then the red suits ending in dummy. The two card ending was the eight of spades and the seven of diamonds in dummy, and ace and seven of spades in his hand. West still had to discard from S93 and D10, and so declarer made the last two tricks, and his contract.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BAILHACHE
a. Thomas a Becket
b. A lower-deck hatch
c. A migraine

PIGSNEY
a. A gilt
b. An Anglo-Saxon coin
c. Darling

THAUMATURGE
a. Superman
b. The Id
c. A rock plant

INTESTACY
a. Fecklessness
b. Without will
c. Refusal to testify

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Title win

The talented young American Grandmaster Patrick Wolff has won this year's US Championship after a tough battle. Wolff gained valuable experience by working as Anand's second in his title challenge to Kasparov. It is likely that Wolff's subtle opening in the following game formed part of Anand's unusued preparation against the champion in their title contest from New York. Wolff grabs a pawn on move 11 and maintains his advantage throughout a difficult technical endgame.

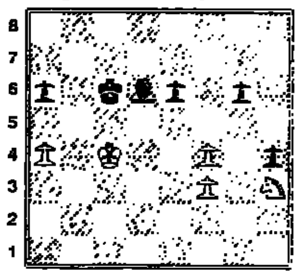
White: Roman Dzindzihashvili
Black: Patrick Wolff
US Championship, December 1995

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	Nf3	a6
4	e3	Nf6
5	Bxc4	e6
6	0-0	c5
7	Qe2	b5
8	Bd3	cxd4
9	exd4	Nc6
10	Bg5	Be7
11	Nc3	Nxd4
12	Nxd4	Qxd4
13	Bxf6	Qxf6
14	Rfd1	Rb8
15	Qc2	Qe5
16	Be4	g6
17	Bc6+	Kf8
18	Rd2	Kg7
19	Rad1	Bb7
20	Bxb7	Rxb7
21	g3	Rc8
22	Qe4	Qxe4
23	Nxe4	Rc6
24	h4	h6
25	Nd6	Rb8
26	Ne4	Rc7
27	Kg2	Rb6
28	Kf3	Rbc6
29	Nd6	Kf8
30	Ne4	Ke8
31	Nd6+	Kf8
32	Ne4	Rc2
33	Rxc2	Rxc2
34	Rd2	Rxd2
35	Nxd2	Bf6
36	b3	Bd4
37	Ke2	Ke7
38	f3	h5
39	Kd3	Bf2
40	Ne4	Bb6
41	a4	bxa4
42	bxa4	f5
43	Nd2	Bf2
44	Nf1	f4
45	gxf4	Bxh4
46	Nd2	Kd7
47	Ne4	Be7
48	Nf2	Kc6
49	Kc4	Bd6
50	Nh3	h4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Times world championship book

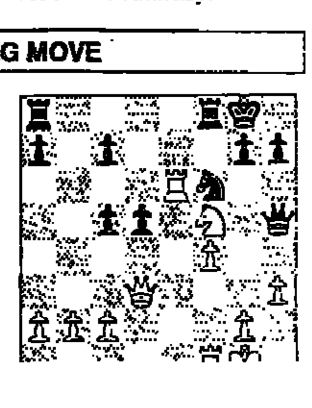
All games of the world title match are available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a Times book, World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5/655).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Reti - Sterk, Vienna 1910. White has managed to manoeuvre his pieces to threatening attacking posts, close to the black king. How did he now capitalise on this?



Nicholson lines up talented novice chaser for Gold Cup

St Mellion Fairway aims high

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

AFTER a week which saw a schoolboy selected for the England rugby squad, it is apt that a first-season chaser with just two races over fences under his belt should emerge yesterday as a live candidate for the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 45 days' time.

No novice has won the most prized of National Hunt races since Captain Christy prevailed in 1974. However, David Nicholson disclosed yesterday that he is now giving serious consideration to the possibility of St Mellion Fairway lining up against the likes of One Man and Master Oats on March 14.

"It's a live option," the champion trainer confirmed. "I would like to see how he gets on in the Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot on Wednesday week. He might have another run and then we would decide."

Nicholson's ambitious plan is, in part, the inevitable consequence of housing a surfeit of staying novice chasers at Jackdaws Castle. His entries for the Sun Alliance Chase, the race run over an extended three miles for Gold Cup aspirants of the future, already include the unbeaten Hill Of Tullow, King Lucifer, Call It A Day, Billygoat Gruff — and St Mellion Fairway.

Add to that the striking impact made by St Mellion Fairway in his two starts over fences, both at Lingfield, and the Nicholson dream begins to make sense. "I think he is pretty good," he added. "Jim Old bought him and always said he was a seriously good horse and he could not have been more helpful after the horse joined me in August."

In theory, Nicholson could adopt similar tactics with Castle Sweep, the rapidly improving and unbeaten novice hurdler, who has an entry in the Champion Hurdle. While there is an outside chance the Lord Vestey-owned five-year-old could go for the hurdlers' crown, he will almost certainly be aimed at the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, without having another run.

Nicholson may end up with runners in every race at Cheltenham bar the Foxhunters' and the four-mile National Hunt Chase. Just as important, the latest bulletin on Adrian Maguire, his retained jockey, suggests he will be fit to resume riding next week after his bad fall at Leicester last Tuesday.

Martin Pipe, who invariably has the biggest Festival entry, had every reason to celebrate yesterday with the announcement that the manufacturer of Cathedral City, a leading West Country brand of mature Cheddar, is sponsoring Pipe and most of the horses at his Nicholashayne yard for a full year.

The sponsorship deal, worth £150,000, is the biggest of its kind and not only represents the start of a new era for Pipe's Pond House Stables, but is also a significant landmark in sponsorship deals prior to an impending review by Customs and Excise.

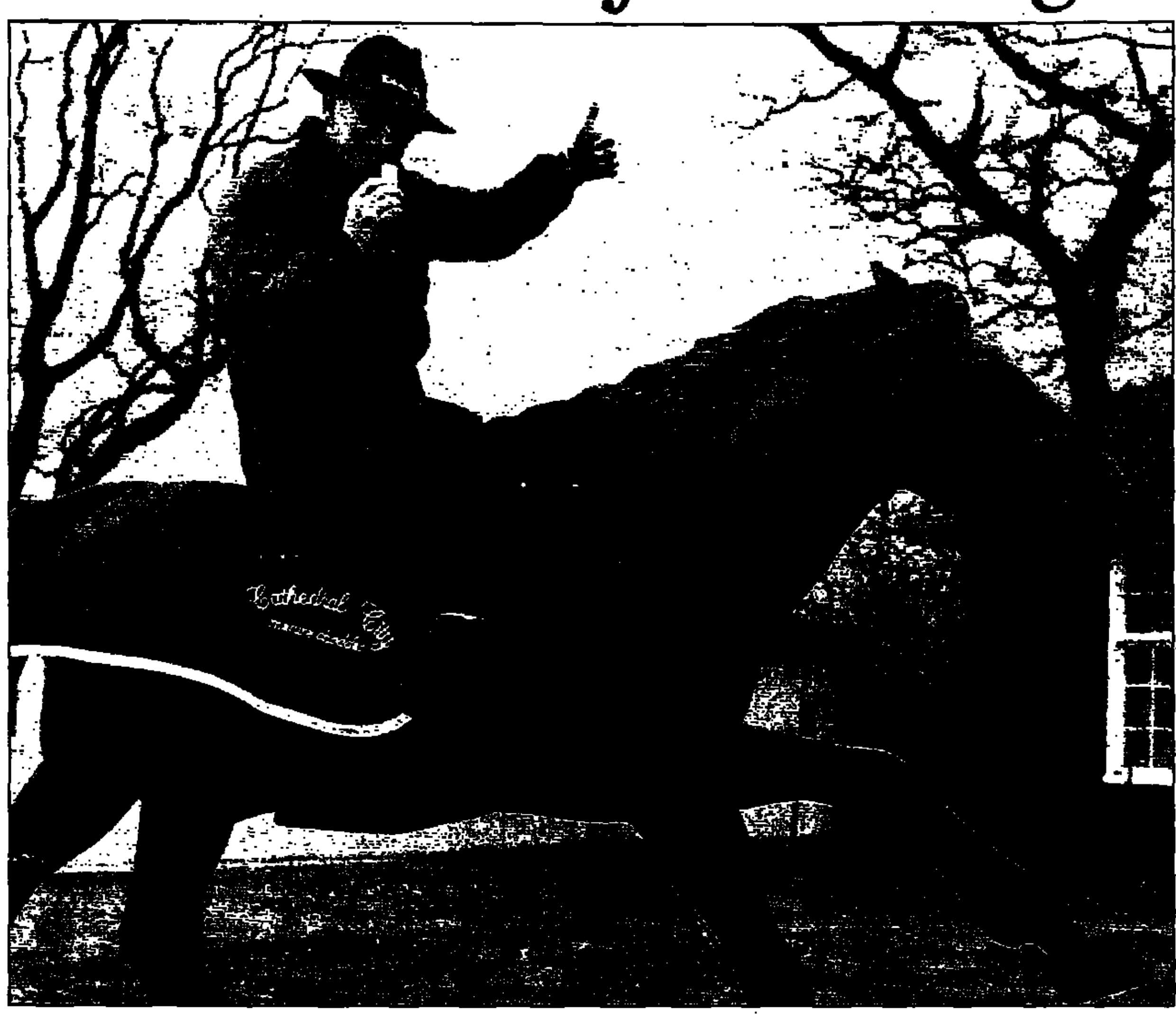
Cathedral City, which is made locally at Frome in Somerset, intends sponsoring a number of jumps races at leading courses and plans to have a horse carrying their name in training as part of a nationwide campaign to increase sales.

Until now the five times champion trainer has not been known for his gastronomic acumen, but Pipe is a quick learner. "Cathedral City cheese is a distinctive, creamy, full-flavoured mature cheddar from the West Country," he said with all the confidence of Keith Floyd.

Post-race television interviews in the winner's enclosure will have limitless possibilities now. Imagine the scene as Julian Wilson or Brough Scott steps forward with the microphone.

"Yes, he did it nicely. Well done Cathedral City," Pipe says as the ubiquitous mobile phone gives way to the obligatory chunk of cheddar, part of which is offered to Wilson or Scott — as the trainer nibbles the remainder in full sight of armchair viewers at home.

You think I'm joking?


Pipe gets an early taste of his £150,000 sponsorship deal with a West Country cheese manufacturer

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: STAND TALL
(3.30 Southwell)
Next best: Square Deal
(2.00 Southwell)

Sponsorship parameters in need of clarification

The rather unseemly bickering between the various interested parties over sponsorship parameters could well have been foreseen by anyone who witnessed the faltering efforts of the original sponsorship committee of the Jockey Club and the inevitable unco-ordinated growth of this welcome addition to prize-money.

The committee met so rarely that, when I raised the subject of putting the whole business onto a more professional basis, its then chairman was quite unaware that he was occupying that onerous position. I proposed that an approach for some advice on the subject should be made to Bob Dean, founder partner of Pearl and Dean, the advertising agency.

Dean, a great hunting and show-jumping man who had a few horses with me in partnership with Gordon White, was at that time in charge of all the British Show Jumping Association and three-day event sponsorship, with the exception of Badminton, which was already sponsored.

No sponsorship for any competition was allowed without his approval, and he laid down the terms under which all sponsorship would be accepted.

General Mike Ansell was responsible for head hunting this remarkable character who, single-handed, saved the Horse of the Year Show from an early demise. The show was in very low water financially, and Dean proposed that, with advance booking only, they should hold their championships at Harringay on the Sunday of the show week.

In those days, the staging of such an important event on a Sunday was unimaginable and, with their advertising budget strictly limited, advance bookings were understandably meagre.

Not to be defeated, Dean, having paid half-a-crown to become a member of the Lord's Day Observance Society, complained to that august body that no protest was being made about such a flagrant desecration of the Sabbath and, in no time at all, marchers and placards were out all over London.

TOM JONES

Racing commentary

With plenty of well-organised press coverage, the impact was nothing short of sensational, and the Horse of the Year Show played to a packed arena for the first time in its existence.

In later years, there was hot competition for the sponsorship of the grand prix jumping at the show and Dean's pitch to the applicants was as follows: "£10,000 in prize-money" — agreed — "but another £10,000 for promotional expenses" — some doubters — "and a further £20,000 for small shows all round the country, which are the seed bed for the contestants in the big competition."

By this time, the one sheep was usually sorted from the goats, and he was then given the monopoly of advertising in the arena and on the programme cover — and a table for ten in the Royal Box for dinner, with a guarantee of at least minor royalty present. It worked every time. Meanwhile, racing was selling a televised race for £300 and, 20 years later, Sunday racing has just arrived.

In response to my proposal, the sponsorship committee's emissary was despatched to consult this guru of the advertising world and reported back that "there was nothing we could learn from him". A few years later, the same emissary had to take his instructions from Dean, when the latter laid down the terms under which Gordon White would undertake the sponsorship of the Derby and the Oaks. He may have learnt quite a lot from that meeting.

Of course, the secret of Dean's success was that he knew from the bottom up about both his subjects, sport and sponsorship, and could recognise and satisfy the needs of both equally well.

I feel that both George Ward and Danka would have been as delighted to do business with Bob Dean as I was to train for him and Bill Shand Kydd to ride for him.

Two meetings rescheduled

THERE was no point-to-pointing in Britain at the weekend after all three meetings were halted by the weather (Carl Evans writes).

Unluckiest was the **West Percy & Milvain** meeting at Alnwick on the Northumberland coast, where the ground for yesterday's fixture was raceable but snow in the region made it impossible for the emergency services to reach the course.

The organisers have rescheduled the event for Sunday, while the **Dunston Harriers** has chosen that day to hold its postponed Ampton meeting.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.40 (5f) 1, Chemcast (R Cochrane, Evens fav); 2, Bouton D'Or (14-1); 3, Red Acuisle (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Montrestar, Ping-Pong Ball. 1l, ½l. D Nichols. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £8.10. Trio: £17.40. CSF: £14.97. Monkey Zanty finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified and placed last.

2.10 (1m) 1, Tormount (T Ives, 9-1); 2, Anak-Ku (6-1); 3, Agent (4-9 fav). 6 ran. Hd, 5l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £5.70; £1.90, £3.20. DF: £21.70. CSF: £54.22.

2.45 (1m 2f) 1, Masnun (A Clark, 11-10 fav); 2, Sweet Supposin (9-2); 3, Scottish Park (40-1). 8 ran. NR: Shuttlecock. ¾l, 1¾l. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.10, £3.70. DF: £5.40. Trio: £27.90. CSF: £6.73.

3.20 (6f) 1, Lochon (R Lappin, 6-1); 2, Invocation (10-1); 3, Ultra Beet (3-1 jt-fav). Fort Knox 3-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. NR: Prince Rudolf. 2l, nk. J Eyre. Tote: £11.10; £3.10, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £41.30. Trio: £48.40. CSF: £63.07. Tricast: £201.55.

3.50 (1m) 1, Banzhaf (S Whitworth, 7-2); 2, Distinct Beauty (4-5 fav); 3, Sovereign Prince (4-1). 4 ran. 1½l, 3½l. G L Moore. Tote: £5.30. DF: £3.40. CSF: £6.57.

4.25 (1m 4f) 1, Sacred Mirror (M Larsen, 10-1); 2, Never So Rite (7-2); 3, Wild Strawberry (10-11 fav). 7 ran. 1¾l, hd. C Brittain. Tote: £17.50; £5.20, £1.20. DF: £17.50. CSF: £44.11.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £23,268.19 carried forward to Southwell today).

JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	102	58	44	6	-17.25
P Hobbs	50	28	26	3	-9.79
N Twiston-Davies	48	36	27	15	-35.51
Mrs M Reveley	46	30	20	12	-61.22

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	109	70	55	2	+82.86
D Bridgwater	85	54	47	5	-21.90
P Niven	52	35	23	6	-37.77
A Maguire	51	44	42	1	-27.48

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THUNDERER

1.10 Shonara's Way
1.40 Give Best
2.10 Port In A Storm
2.40 Carley Lad
3.10 **STORMY CORAL** (nap)
3.40 Solba
4.10 Bang In Trouble

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **SAVOY.**

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES (7.00AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.10 HAGGIS AND NEEPS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,193: 2m) (15 runners)

1		CHARITY CRUSADER 215F (Express Marie Curie RC) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8	P Niven	—
2		GOLD BITS (Gott Foods Ltd) G Richards 5-11-8	B Harding (3)	—
3	5	JAYDALAY 42 (M Nicholson) Miss L Russell 6-11-8	A Thornton	—
4	25	JUBRAN 17 (Mrs E Scullion) J Dodds 10-11-8	P Carberry	95
5	P-0	MUSIC BLITZ 17 (Duke of Atholl) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-8	L O'Hara	76
6	046/F3-2	SUPREME SOVIET 63 (A Gilchrist) A Williams 6-11-8	M Moloney	98
7	50	ZUBOON 13 (J J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 5-11-8	M Dwyer	80
8	55/	GLINT OF AYR 840 (R Goldie) R Goldie 6-11-3	T Jenks	—
9	040000	MEADOWLECK 13 (W Young) W Young 7-11-3	R Murphy (7)	—
10	00-F	POLLY STAR 19 (I Farley) L Lungo 6-11-3	T Reed	—
11		SHONARA'S WAY 94F (A Guthrie) P Monteith 5-11-3	A Dobbin	—
12	D	SYLVAN CELEBRATION 16 (J Goldie) J Goldie 5-11-3	F Perratt	—
13		BADDI QUEST 170F (J Slattery) D Nolan 4-10-10	J Callaghan	—
14		COOL TACTICIAN 111F (E Waugh) C Parker 4-10-10	B Storey	—
15	003	NORTHERN CHARMER 13 (Bibby Halliday Ptnrs) E Alston 4-10-10	R Garritty	[illegible]

BETTING: 11-4 Charity Crusader, 9-2 Supreme Soviet, 6-1 Gold Bits, 7-1 Shonara's Way, 10-1 others.

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS

JUBRAN 23½l 5th to Marchant Ming in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good) with MUSIC BLITZ 11l 8th. Previously 15 2nd of 15 to Blaze Away in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good). SUPREME SOVIET 7l 2nd to Penny A Day in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to soft). ZUBOON 21½l 5th to Colonel In Chief in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start. SHONARA'S WAY best effort last year on Flat promoted 5¾l 2nd to Seasonal Splendour in handicap at Goodwood (2m, good). NORTHERN CHARMER 7l 3rd to Jocks Cross in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to soft).
Selection: JUBRAN

1.40 HAGGIS AND NEEPS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,193: 2m) (14 runners)

1		AITCHTEE-P (Mrs S Cooper) M Barnes 8-11-8	P Waggott	—
2		ASTRAL WEEKS 109F (Kenmore Estates Ltd) L Lungo 5-11-8	T Reed	—
3	400-403	CANAAN VALLEY 17 (D Robertson) D Robertson 8-11-8	J Burke	85
4	04	COLORFUL AMBITION 26F (F Sainsbury) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-8	P Carberry	90
5		CRACKHILL FARM 464F (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8	P Niven	—
6	4614-	GIVE BEST 278 (S) (Miss J Bellamy) J J O'Neill 5-11-8	M Dwyer	—
7	42	HIGHLAND WAY 19 (J Gordon) M Todhunter 8-11-8	R Garritty	[illegible]
8	00-064	SHREWD THOUGHT 40 (R Green) C Parker 5-11-8	B Storey	77
9	2-54522	STASH THE CASH 9 (G Shiel) T Dyer 5-11-8	A Dobbin	97
10	0-0	TURKISH TOWER 19 (G Nixon) R Nixon 5-11-8	N Bentley	—
11	6-5	MARTHA BUCKLE 73 (Paterson's of Saturland Farm) J Goldie 7-11-3	G Lee (3)	—
12	3	CELEBRATION CAKE 79 (Lightbody Ltd) Miss L Perratt 4-10-10	B Harding (3)	98
13	4	CRYSTAL GIFT 13 (Mrs L Williams) A Williams 4-10-10	M Moloney	90
14		FASSAN 112F (MHOG Racing) M Hammond 4-10-10	Mr C Bonner (3)	—

BETTING: 7-2 Crackhill Farm, 9-2 Colorful Ambition, 5-1 Celebration Cake, 7-1 Give Best, 8-1 Stash The Cash, 10-1 Astral Weeks, Highland Way, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

COLORFUL AMBITION 14½l 4th of 14 to Crown Equerry in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). GIVE BEST 6¾l 4th to Manago in National Hunt Flat race at Punchestown (2m, good). HIGHLAND WAY 3½l 2nd of 18 to Colonel In Chief in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft) with TURKISH TOWER tailed off 17th. SHREWD THOUGHT 11l 4th of 12 to Duke Of Perth in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m, good). STASH THE CASH 4l 2nd to Direct Route in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good) penultimate start with CANAAN VALLEY 12l 3rd. CELEBRATION CAKE 5¾l 3rd to Done Well in juvenile hurdle over course and distance (good).
Selection: CELEBRATION CAKE

2.10 CAIRNGORM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,460: 2m) (6 runners)

1	1/F525-4	JUST FRANKIE 44 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Susan Watson) Mrs M Reveley 12-12-0	P Niven	[illegible]
2	P6-1125	BELDINE 79 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Monteith) P Monteith 11-12-0	T Jenks	94
3	43-3U2U	CROSS CANNON 17 (BF,F,G) (J Hellens) J Hellens 10-11-11	T Reed	93
4	322U36	PRECIPICE RUN 19 (V,CD,G,S) (Cumbrian RC) G Richards 11-11-9	A Dobbin	94
5	0124/2-3	CAITHNESS CLOUD 13 (S) (R Green) C Parker 8-11-0	B Storey	—
6	0433-F0	PORT IN A STORM 13 (S) (J Doyle Const Ltd) M Hammond 7-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	89

Long handicap: Port In A Storm 9-12.

BETTING: 9-4 Just Frankie, 5-2 Beldine, 5-1 Cross Cannon, Precipice Run, Caithness Cloud, 14-1 Port In A Storm.

FORM FOCUS

BELDINE 6¾l 5th of 7 to Political Tower in handicap chase over course and distance (good). CROSS CANNON 1l 2nd of 6 to Dark Oak in handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to firm) penultimate start. PRECIPICE RUN 5½l 2nd of 9 to Distinctive in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start. CAITHNESS CLOUD 6¾l 3rd of 4 to Golden Hello in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m, good to soft).
Selection: CROSS CANNON (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs M Reveley	34	131	26.0	P Niven	33	134	24.6
G Richards	47	195	24.0	A Roche	6	25	24.0
J J O'Neill	16	73	21.9	T Jenks	3	14	21.4
J Goldie	4	25	16.0	R Garritty	3	15	20.0
A Williams	3	19	15.8	A Dobbin	21	106	19.8
M Hammond	9	62	14.5	N Leach	3	19	15.8

2.40 GLENCOE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,742: 3m 110yd) (16 runners)

1	32/0-0	BALLYALLIA CASTLE 44 (S Marsh) R Fisher 7-11-8	J Callaghan	—
2	0	BOLD ELECT 9 (G Lowe) E Alston 8-11-8	P Niven	—
3	00	BRIGHT DESTINY 87 (J Goldie) J Goldie 5-11-8	G Lee (3)	—
4	000/	BRUCE-HAVEN 1436 (Miss B Spittal) Miss L Perratt 9-11-8	T Jenks	—
5	00P-2	CARLEY LAD 13 (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Richards 8-11-8	A Dobbin	97
6	02	CELTIC GIANT 18 (R Gilbert) L Lungo 6-11-8	T Reed	[illegible]
7	20	DAVID'S WAY 25 (D Lever) M Hammond 7-11-8	R Garritty	90
8	0000-R0	FINE TUNE 19 (T Hardie) Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-8	L O'Hara	73
9	006/	KINGS LANE 629 (J Dun) Mr J Dun 7-11-8	A Thornton	—
10	11/5-PP4	NAUGHTY FUTURE 23 (G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 7-11-8	A Roche (3)	77
11	00	NOOSA SOUND 13 (Mrs J Peathers) L Lungo 6-11-8	F Perratt	—
12	040-00	ROBARA 40 (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 6-11-8	N Leach	68
13	PP	TRESPASSER 9 (B) (Mrs A Thompson) J J O'Neill 7-11-8	M Dwyer	—
14	PFUF/24	CELTIC WATERS 150 (Mrs D Thomson) Mrs D Thomson 11-11-3	A Watherck (7)	—
15	0P266-0	CRAIGIE RAMBLER 67 (D Robertson) D Robertson 7-11-3	J Burke	68
16		FLOWER OF DUNBLANE (I Dalgleish) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-3	B Storey	—

BETTING: 11-4 Naughty Future, 4-1 Celtic Giant, Carley Lad, 8-1 David's Way, 10-1 Celtic Waters, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BALLYALLIA CASTLE best effort 11l 2nd to Air Shot in National Hunt Flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) March 1994. CARLEY LAD 8l 2nd to Santa Concerto in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to soft) with NOOSA SOUND tailed off 9th. CELTIC GIANT 10l 2nd of 14 to Simply Dashing in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). DAVID'S WAY 9l 2nd to Go-Informal in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). CELTIC WATERS 4l 2nd to Violet's Boy in match for novice chase at Perth (3m, good to firm) penultimate start.
Selection: CELTIC GIANT

3.10 ANNOCH MOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,720: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	F26154	SAILOR JIM 16 (D,F,G,S) (R Perkins) P Dalton 9-12-0	T Eley	[illegible]
2	/4/2116	ROCKET RUN 19 (BF,F,G,S) (P Russell) Miss L Russell 8-11-6	A Thornton	93
3	21422-0	GOLDEN FIDDLE 19 (C,S) (W Wilson) J Oliver 8-11-5	P Niven	88
4	F163-11	STORMY CORAL 13 (C,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-11-4	B Storey	90
5	0-23U31	EAST HOUSTON 44 (D,F,G) (Highgreen Ptnrs) J J O'Neill 7-11-1	A Roche (3)	94
6	420-221	JUKE BOX BILLY 54 (D,F,G) (Esmeraldo Ptnrs) P Monteith 8-10-9	B Harding (3)	94
7	33204-0	FUNNY OLD GAME 13 (C,S) (D McCune) D McCune 9-10-7	F Perratt	92
8	P3-0560	GALA WATER 19 (C,S) (Mrs T Dun) T Dun 10-10-5	T Reed	98
9	F5F6/43	FINCH'S GEM 5 (Mrs B Finch) G Richards 8-10-3	A Dobbin	87
10	542-646	NATIVE MONY 20 (T Hemmings) M Hammond 7-10-0	P Carberry	95

BETTING: 9-4 Stormy Coral, 3-1 East Houston, 5-1 Rocket Run, Juke Box Billy, 7-1 Sailor Jim, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

SAILOR JIM beat River Red 15l in 6-runner handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good) in November. ROCKET RUN 44l 6th of 12 to Emerald Storm in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft) with GOLDEN FIDDLE (5lb better off) 6l 7th and GALA WATER (7lb better off) tailed off 11th. Previously beat Grand Scenery 30l in novice chase at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm). GOLDEN FIDDLE 8l 2nd of 13 to The Lorryman in handicap chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. STORMY CORAL beat Judicial Field 4l in handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, good to soft) with FUNNY OLD GAME (8lb better off) 54l 10th. EAST HOUSTON beat Fox Chapel 8l in 9-runner novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm). JUKE BOX BILLY beat Dexford Hut 8l in 11-runner handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good).
Selection: STORMY CORAL

3.40 GLENSHEE NOVICES CHASE (£3,582: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	1232-21	LOCHNAGRAIN 25 (F,S) (Lightbody of Hamilton Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-11	P Niven	88
2	63242-1	MAJOR BELL 19 (F,G,S) (I Middlemiss) A Whillans 8-11-11	M Moloney	95
3	0F00-P	CALDER'S GROVE 17 (Miss L Perratt) Miss L Perratt 6-11-5	A Dobbin	—
4	5	CHOISTY 99 (Hotel Brokers International) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5	M Foster	—
5	0P6-000	GRAND AS OWT 9 (Miss N Neill) D McCune 6-11-5	A Thornton	—
6	408405	REBEL KING 9 (G) (M Barnes) M Barnes 6-11-5	P Waggott	63
7	3122P/2	SAVOY 19 (G) (R Ogden) G Richards 9-11-5	P Carberry	[illegible]
8	630-623	SOLBA 40 (G,S) (R Green) C Parker 7-11-5	B Storey	91
9	5452F-F	WHITE DIAMOND 42 (F,S) (P Russell) Miss L Russell 8-11-5	T Reed	70

BETTING: 2-1 Lochnagrain, 5-2 Savoy, 11-4 Major Bell, 7-1 Solba, 16-1 Grand As Owt, Rebel King, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

LOCHNAGRAIN beat Premier First 3l in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). MAJOR BELL beat SAVOY (6lb better off) head in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft). GRAND AS OWT 46l 9th to Lord Dorcet in novice chase at Catterick (2m, good). REBEL KING 11l 5th to Mr Fudge in novice handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good). SOLBA 2¾l 3rd to Beauchamp Grace in novice chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: SAVOY

4.10 WHISKY MAC HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,632: 2m 6f) (7 runners)

1	12-6314	CUTTHROAT KID 16 (V,BF,F,G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 6-12-0	G Cahill (7)	[illegible]
2	242-223	ABBOT OF FURNESS 13 (C,D,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 12-11-12	A Dobbin	98
3	22310-3	BANG IN TROUBLE 51 (C,S) (Mrs L Joughin) J J O'Neill 5-11-8	M Dwyer	97
4	1/45F-PP	AMBLESIDE HARVEST 63 (C,G,S) (G & P Barker Ltd) J J O'Neill 9-11-0	A Roche (3)	—
5	234005/	ERZADJAN 679 (G) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13	P Niven	—
6	454/46-0	CELTIC BREEZE 24 (V,CD,G,S) (H Gething) Mrs A Naughton 13-10-7	M Foster	92
7	1-PP5	CHUMMY'S SAGA 19 (F) (Mrs I Curran) L Lungo 6-10-0	F Perratt	97

Long handicap: Chummy's Saga 9-10.

BETTING: 7-4 Bang In Trouble, 2-1 Cutthroat Kid, 11-4 Abbot Of Furness, 12-1 Erzadjan, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CUTTHROAT KID 14l 4th of 17 to Trainglot in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). ABBOT OF FURNESS 5l 3rd of 11 to Fearless Wonder in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). BANG IN TROUBLE 8¾l 3rd of 14 to Great Easeby in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, good). ERZADJAN 11½l 5th of 17 to Stonewell in novice handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm). CELTIC BREEZE 21l 8th of 18 to Able Player in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good). CHUMMY'S SAGA tailed off 5th of 7 to Coqui Lane in conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, soft).
Selection: ABBOT OF FURNESS

Thaw offers encouragement

A SLIGHT thaw yesterday has improved prospects for a return to turf racing. Plumpton and Ayr, due to stage meetings today, are both cautiously optimistic after a rise in temperature. Plumpton's clerk of the course, Cliff Griggs, said: "Conditions have improved to such an extent that I am now optimistic," while Mark Kershaw, course manager at Ayr, said: "We have a chance of going ahead — more than that, in fact."

Charlie Moore, clerk of the course at Nottingham, was also hopeful for tomorrow's fixture. "The temperature is zero, but it is not freezing," he said. Officials at Musselburgh have announced that tomorrow's fixture will go ahead. However, prospects remain poor for the meetings at Windsor on Wednesday (9am inspection today) and Towcester on Thursday.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.20 Meant To Be. 1.50 Whippers Delight. 2.20 Toskano. 2.50 Durrington. 3.20 Supreme Genotin. 3.50 Aal El Aal. 4.20 Meanus Miller.

GOING: SOFT (6.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.20 HICKSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,157: 2m 1f) (12 runners)

1	0	DAWN INVADER 18 D Caro 5-11-8	D Gallagher	-
2	0	HILLSWICK 79 J King 5-11-8	G Upton	70
3	P	ISHMA 12 Mrs L Jewell 5-11-8	D Leahy	-
4	-03U	PETE THE PARSON 20 J Old 7-11-8	J Osborne	82
5		RUBHAHUNISH 141F J Bennett 5-11-8	L Harvey	-
6	2/0	WHISTLING BUCK 60 (S) R Rowe 8-11-8	D O'Sullivan	-
7	2-	CONVENT GARDEN 288 N Henderson 6-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	-
8	20	MEANT TO BE 16 Lady Herries 6-11-3	E Murphy	[illegible]
9		BIG BANDS ARE BACK 78F C Popham 4-10-10	A P McCoy	-
10	30	BON VOYAGE 26 (B) D Grissell 4-10-10	J R Kavanagh	-
11	UPF0	CASHFLOW CRISIS 12 J Mullins 4-10-10	S Curran (3)	-
12		MATAMOROS 102F G Harwood 4-10-10	M Richards	-

2-1 Meant To Be, 7-2 Rubhahunish, 4-1 Convent Garden, 6-1 Pete The Parson, 7-1 Matamoros, 10-1 Bon Voyage, 14-1 others.

1.50 ALBOURNE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,812: 2m) (9)

1	6133	REVE EN ROSE 40 (D,F,G,S) M McMillan 10-12-0	J R Kavanagh	93
2	63U0	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 16 (CD,G,S) G Charles-Jones 8-11-13	D Walsh (5)	[illegible]
3	3-4P	ROSSILL 46 (F,S) J White 10-11-10	D Gallagher	88
4	-355	NATHIR 26 (CD,S) P Butler 10-11-7	T J Murphy (3)	-
5	3022	EVENING RAIN 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 10-11-1	A P McCoy	94
6	/FP-P	SALCOMBE HARBOUR 16P (G,S) P Pritchard 12-11-0	Dr P Pritchard	91
7	-538	RATHER SHARP 48 (CD,F,S) C Popham 10-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	91
8	-534	HANDSOME NED 70 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Grissell 10-10-6	D Morris	97
9	0032	FICHU 45 (F) Mrs L Richards 8-10-1	M Richards	-

3-1 Evening Rain, 7-2 Whippers Delight, 9-2 Reve En Rose, 5-1 Rather Sharp, 6-1 Rossill, 7-1 Handsome Ned, 8-1 Nathir, 12-1 others.

2.20 POYNINGS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,010: 2m 1f) (13)

1	-430	MINSTER'S MADAM 12 (V,D,S) J Neville 5-12-0	G F Ryan (5)	84
2	3532	ELUSIVE STAR 80 J White 6-11-12	P McLoughlin	84
3	-P0P	SCENT OF BATTLE 14 (S) M Haynes 8-11-9	D Skyrme	93
4	-6F0	TAKE A FLYER 11 (B,F,G) R Hodges 6-11-7	A Tory	92
5	0P06	TOSKANO 9F D Williams 4-11-3	G Hogan (3)	80
6	0623	MISTER BLAKE 58 Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 6-11-3	D Leahy	91
7	-000	COBB GATE 46 (B,D,G) B Stevens 8-11-2	M Stevens	97
8	5503	PRECIOUS WONDER 5 P Butler 7-11-1	T J Murphy (3)	-
9	R50U	NORTHERN HIGHLIGHT 48 (B) T McGovern 5-11-0	A P McCoy	[illegible]
10	-000	NORTHERN SINGER 16F R Hodges 6-10-13	J Harris (7)	90
11	PP05	BAY BOB 11F (B) T Casey 7-10-6	E Murphy	80
12	345	RARFO 62 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-4	W Walsh (7)	80
13	0600	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 24 (B,C,S) Mrs L Jewell 10-10-3	D Gallagher	80

3-1 Minster's Madam, 7-2 Elusive Star, 5-1 Mister Blake, 7-1 Scent of Battle, 10-1 Northern Singer, 12-1 Bay Bob, 14-1 others.

2.50 PLUMPTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,261: 2m 5f) (8)

1	26-5	THE SHY PADRE 23 R Lee 7-11-13	P McLoughlin	86
2	34-6	RIO TRUSKY 26 D Grissell 7-11-2	J R Kavanagh	-
3	5140	DURRINGTON 11 (S) M Bolton 10-11-0	P Hide	87
4	PP-1	ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 68 (F) Mrs M Jones 7-10-5	D Byrne	[illegible]
5	P5/	LE DENSTAN 632 P Hedger 9-10-4	M Richards	-
6	F55	ITALIAN MAN 12 G Charles-Jones 8-10-4	W McFarland	88
7	48-5	JIMMY THE JACKDAW 38 (V) P Butler 9-10-2	G Hogan (3)	80
8	-43P	LYRICAL SEAL 11 (B) D French Davis 6-10-0	P Holley	-

2-1 Zambezi Spirit, 5-2 The Shy Padre, 5-1 Durrington, 6-1 Rio Trusky, Jimmy The Jackdaw, 8-1 Le Denstan, 14-1 others.

3.20 HICKSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,157: 2m 1f) (12)

1	/3-6	AMAZE 10 Lady Herries 7-11-8	E Murphy	89
2	4	BALASARA 82F (B) R O'Sullivan 6-11-8	D O'Sullivan	83
3	000	EMPERORS WOOD 11F P Hayward 5-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	-
4	-623	KING'S GOLD 26 Mrs L Richards 6-11-8	M Richards	90
5	20	LORD ROOBLE 16 J Gifford 5-11-8	P Hide	[illegible]
6	P	MOUNT LODGE 63 Mrs L Jewell 5-11-8	D Gallagher	-
7	1-F0	SUPREME GENOTIN 16 (S) J Old 7-11-8	J Osborne	81
8	RRV	DOMITOR'S LASS 623 R Ledger 9-11-3	Mrs N Ledger	-
9	50	PRESTIGE LADY 90 B Smart 5-11-3	C Llewellyn	-
10	P	PRUSSIAN STORM 16 M Bradstock 7-11-3	P Holley	-
11		TOMAL 18F R Ingram 4-10-10	A P McCoy	-
12		STAR ANISE 145F Mrs D Haine 4-10-5	J F Titley	-

6-4 Supreme Genotin, 7-2 Lord Rooble, 9-2 Amaze, 6-1 King's Gold, 7-1 Balasara, 20-1 Tomal, Prestige Lady, 25-1 others.

3.50 LEWES NOVICES CHASE (£3,016: 2m) (5)

1	-2FF	AAL EL AAL 9 (G,S) P Hobbs 9-11-3	A P McCoy	-
2	000-	BRIGADIER SUPREME 381 P Butler 7-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	-
3	F23U	GROUND NUT 17 (S) R Buckler 6-11-3	B Powell	[illegible]
4	-9U0	NAMASTE 16 (G,S) R Head 8-11-3	G Bradley	-
5	0P/	SUNGROVE'S BEST 586F P Eccles 9-11-3	Mr J Culloty (7)	-

4-6 Ground Nut, 9-4 Namaste, 6-1 Aal El Aal, 10-1 Brigadier Supreme, 20-1 Sungrove's Best.

4.20 PYECOMBE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,469: 2m 4f) (10)

1	3211	WALKING TALL 46 (CD,F,G) T McGovern 5-12-0	A P McCoy	91
2	-00F	HOSTILE WITNESS 28 (F,S) P Hedger 6-11-13	M Clinton (7)	93
3	P-P2	LE GINNO 14 (G,S) C Brooks 9-11-12	G Bradley	97
4	-3UP	KINGS CHERRY 7 (S) R Buckler 8-11-10	B Powell	-
5	-002	DANGER BABY 12 (F,G) D Williams 6-11-0	J Osborne	[illegible]
6	2340	MEANUS MILLER 12 (CD,S) R Rowe 8-10-10	D O'Sullivan	94
7	3610	DARING KING 18 (S) M Bolton 6-10-8	P Hide	97
8	-00P	CARFAX 5 (D,G,S) R Head 11-10-4	S Curran (3)	-
9	0-53	RAMALLAH 12 (CD,G,S) J White 7-10-0	D Bentley	97
10	0P-P	JUST A BEAU 80 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0	D Gallagher	-

5-2 Le Ginno, 7-2 Walking Tall, 9-2 Danger Baby, 5-1 Ramallah, 6-1 Hostile Witness, Meanus Miller, 10-1 Kings Cherry, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; Lady Herries, 7 from 16, 43.8%; Mrs D Haine, 6 from 15, 40.0%; J White, 42 from 140, 30.0%; Mrs L Richards, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P Hedger, 5 from 19, 26.3%.

JOCKEYS: J Titley, 3 winners from 4 rides, 75.0%; A P McCoy, 9 from 27, 33.3%; G Bradley, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Osborne, 12 from 53, 22.6%; M Richards, 9 from 44, 20.5%; E Murphy, 5 from 26, 19.2%.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.30 Karinska. 2.00 Square Deal. 2.30 At The Savoy. 3.00 Upper Mount Clair. 3.30 White Sorrel. 4.00 Domettes. 4.30 Samana Cay.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Upper Mount Clair. 4.00 BE MY BIRD (nap). 4.30 Gentle Irony.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.30 LONDONDERRY FILLIES HANDICAP (Div I: £2,048: 1m) (9 runners)

101	0-36	KARINSKA 7 (CD,F,G) M Chapman 6-10-0	P McCabe (3)	2
102	053-	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 58 (G,S) A Bailey 4-9-8	Angela Gallimore (7)	4
103	61-4	LITTLE SCARLETT 19 (D,G) P Makin 4-9-4	N Carlisle	8
104	4533	INDIAHRA 3 (V,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-2	F Lynch (7)	9
105	0-40	CABCHARGE BLUE 11 (F,S) T Naughton 4-9-2	J Weaver	5
106	0-22	LILAC RAIN 14 (B) J Arnold 4-9-0	C Rutter	7
107	000-	SHANGHAI LIL 184 (G) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-12	J Fortune	1
108	00-0	AGOER 18 C Brittain 4-8-11	M Larsen	6
109	0-06	MAZILLA 7 (V,CD,G) A Streeter 4-8-10	F Norton	3

9-4 Little Scarlett, 5-2 Indiahra, 7-2 Karinska, 5-1 Lilac Rain, 8-1 Cabcharge Blue, 12-1 Agoer, 14-1 others.

2.00 FERMANAGH MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,398: 7f) (11)

201	24-0	DR CALIGARI 21 (B,BF) S Gollings 4-9-10	D Griffiths (5)	10
202	30-2	SQUARE DEAL 10 S Bowring 5-9-10	C Teague (5)	8
203	00/	BRAFFERTON BELLA 499 J Jefferson 4-9-5	S D Williams	7
204	6-00	MARGARETROSE ANNA 19 E Alston 4-9-5	J Fortune	6
205	/0-0	ROYAL DANCER 21 R Weaver 4-9-5	J Dennis (7)	1
206		FOOTHILL R Phillips 3-8-6	G Carter	9
207	0-05	HEVER GOLF EAGLE 2 T Naughton 3-8-6	J Weaver	5
208	454-	MOONCUSSER 124 (BF) J Fitzgerald 3-8-6	M Wigham	4
209		RAJAH C Thornton 3-8-6	D McKeown	11
210	5-33	YOUNG FREDERICK 3 K Burke 3-8-6	T Ashley (7)	2
211	6-50	MADAM ZANDO 10 J Balding 3-8-1	T Williams	3

5-2 Square Deal, 3-1 Young Frederick, 4-1 Rajah, 9-2 Mooncusser, 8-1 Margaretrose Anna, 10-1 Dr Caligari, 16-1 others.

2.30 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,398: 6f) (5)

301	-224	AWESOME VENTURE 7 (S) M Chapman 6-8-9	P McCabe (3)	4
302	0-00	ELTON LEDGER 7 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-9	J Tate	1
303	-620	AT THE SAVOY 9 (B,CD,G) T Barron 5-8-7	J Fortune	2
304	0-00	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 7 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-5	F Lynch (7)	3
305	0-60	LEGATEE 7 (F,G) A Streeter 5-8-0	F Norton	5

5-2 At The Savoy, 11-4 Elton Ledger, 3-1 Awesome Venture, 4-1 Legatee, 6-1 Bold Aristocrat.

3.00 ANTRIM HANDICAP (£2,996: 2m) (13)

401	6-54	MIZYAN 6 (C,F,G) J Banks 8-10-0	J Stack (3)	10
402	/6-	NORDIC SUN 16J (F,G,S) L Lloyd-James 8-9-12	J Weaver	1
403	03-1	EULOGY 17 (CD,G,S) K Burke 9-9-9	T Ashley (7)	7
404	05-0	CROSS TALK 10 (F) R Hollinshead 4-9-1	T Ives	3
405	450-	PRIDE OF MAY 16J (V,F) C Fairhurst 5-8-12	D McKeown	8
406	425-	UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 82 (F,G) C Brittain 6-8-7	M Larsen	13
407	5-06	ANCHORENA 14 J A Harris 4-8-6	D Sweeney (7)	5
408	5-30	THATCHER'S ERA 14 (BF) T Barron 4-8-5	J Fortune	11
409	446-	LA MENORQUINA 58J (CD,G) D Marks 6-8-2	J Fanning	4
410	40-6	TREMENDISTO 24 J Wilson 6-8-1	C Rutter	12
411	0-04	GOLDEN PUNCH 11 (V) C Cyzer 5-7-12	N Adams	2
412	5/3	BADAWI 19 (F) N Babbage 6-7-10	J Quinn	6
413	0-12	MILNGAVIE 12 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) M Johnston 6-7-10	T Williams	9

7-2 Badawi, 4-1 Milngavie, 5-1 Eulogy, 8-1 Mizyan, Upper Mount Clair, 10-1 Golden Punch, Nordic Sun, 12-1 others.

3.30 ARMAGH HANDICAP (£3,453: 6f) (9)

501	2-43	CRETAN GIFT 14 (V,CD,G) N Littmoden 5-10-0	T G McLaughlin	4
502	26-0	LEIGH CROFTER 14 (B,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 7-9-12	D Griffiths (5)	3
503	00-1	WHITE SORREL 21 (CD,G) A Harrison 5-8-10	J Stack (3)	1
504	-651	MILOS 9 (CD,F,G) T Naughton 5-8-7	T Ashley (7)	6
505	1-02	ENCORE M'LADY 7 (B,D,F,G) F Lee 5-8-5	T Ives	8
506	0-00	TAFAHHUS 9 (V,D,F) M Polglase 4-8-10	M Rimmer	5
507	52-4	SOUTHERN DOMINION 5 (D,BF,G) M Johnston 4-8-9	J Weaver	9
508	21-3	STAND TALL 17 (D,BF,G) C Thornton 4-8-5	D McKeown	2
509	00-0	WE'RE JOKEN 3 (B,D,G,S) S Gollings 4-7-13	J Quinn	7

5-2 Milos, 11-4 Cretan Gift, 9-2 White Sorrel, Encore M'Lady, 5-1 Southern Dominion, 8-1 Stand Tall, 10-1 others.

4.00 TYRONE SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,398: 1m) (9)

601	51-6	DOMETTES 25 (F) R Hannon 9-7	Mark Denaro (7)	8
602	050-	SNOW DOMINO 58 J Jefferson 9-2	J Fortune	6
603	65-4	BUMBLEFOOT 21 (G) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	2
604	-554	BE MY BIRD 14 W Musson 8-11	P McCabe (3)	1
605	400-	SPORTING FANTASY 48 (F) J Balding 8-10	J Edmunds (7)	4
606	050-	BAILIWICK 93 (B) N Graham 8-9	M Fenton	5
607	40-0	COCOON 7 C Thornton 8-9	D McKeown	3
608	00-0	NAKED EMPEROR 25 (V) M Fetherston-Godley 8-6	C Rutter	9
609	-045	ERPETITE 7 N Bycroft 8-6	J Quinn	7

13-8 Be My Bird, 15-8 Bumblefoot, 3-1 Domettes, 10-1 Erpetite, 12-1 others.

4.30 LONDONDERRY FILLIES HANDICAP (Div II: £2,048: 1m) (9)

1	004-	ME CHEROKEE 229 C Thornton 4-9-10	D McKeown	4
2	0-04	MOODY 14 (S) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9	M Fenton	8
3	450-	GENTLE IRONY 48 (B,D,F,G,S) W Musson 4-9-9	T Ives	5
4	30-0	SAMANA CAY 17 (F) P Felgate 4-9-4	J Tate	9
5	466-	BY THE BAY 46 C Elsey 4-9-3	M Tebbutt	1
6	2-55	IRCHESTER LASS 7 (V,F,G) S Bowring 4-9-0	C Teague (5)	3
7	6-60	MILL DANCER 7 (D,F,S) E Alston 4-8-13	S D Williams	7
8	-030	THE MESTRAL 3 M Ryan 4-8-7	P Bloomfield	2
9	6-00	DOUBLE GLOW 7 (C,F,G) N Bycroft 4-8-6	G Bardwell	6

5-2 Moody, 3-1 Me Cherokee, 9-2 By The Bay, 5-1 Irchester Lass, Gentle Irony, 10-1 The Mestral, 12-1 Mill Dancer, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Ryan, 19 winners from 74 runners, 25.7%; J Banks, 6 from 30, 20.0%; M Johnston, 32 from 172, 18.6%; J Fitzgerald, 20 from 123, 16.3%; W Musson, 6 from 38, 15.8%; K Burke, 10 from 65, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 37 from 204, 18.1%; J Fortune, 17 from 107, 15.9%; F Lynch, 3 from 19, 15.8%; M Tebbutt, 7 from 47, 14.9%; J Tate, 12 from 88, 13.6%; D McKeown, 33 from 257, 12.8%.

Blinkered first time

AYR: 2.40 Trespasser. PLUMPTON: 1.20 Bon Voyage. 2.20 Take A Flyer. SOUTHWELL: 1.30 Mazilla. 2.00 Mooncusser, Dr Caligari. 3.30 Tafahhus, We're Joken. 4.00 Bailiwick, Naked Emperor. 4.30 Irchester Lass.

Unreasonable to bring claim after 18 years

Biggs v Somerset County Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment January 26]

It was not reasonable for a part-time worker to bring a claim for compensation for unfair dismissal in June 1994 when she had been dismissed in August 1976, notwithstanding that it was not until March 1994 that the House of Lords declared the qualifying thresholds for claims by part-time workers to be incompatible with European Community law: see *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* (*The Times* March 4, 1994; [1995] AC 1)

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Mrs Mary Biggs from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (*The Times* July 17, 1995; [1995] ICR 811) which had upheld an Exeter industrial tribunal that her complaint of unfair dismissal against her employers, Somerset County Council, was out of time.

Mr James Goudie, QC, for Mrs Biggs; Mr David Pannick and Mr Paul Golding for the county council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that at the time of her dismissal, the right not to be unfairly dismissed did not apply to employment for less than 21 hours weekly. She had been employed to work for only 14 hours a week.

On March 3, 1994 the House of Lords announced its decision in the *EOC* decision. On June 1, 1994 Mrs Biggs' application for compensation was received.

The industrial tribunal found that the claim had not been presented within three months of the effective date of termination of her employment and that it had not been reasonably practicable for Mrs Biggs to present her claim within that time by virtue of the law as it then stood in relation to part-time employees. However, it held that it was not just to permit a claim to be presented 18 years after the events took place and found that the claim was time-barred. The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed her appeal.

The argument for Mrs Biggs was advanced under three headings:

1 That it was not reasonably practicable for her to have presented her claim within three months following her dismissal in 1976. She presented her claim within a reasonable period thereafter.

Mr Goudie's argument ran as follows: (i) In 1976 any claim for unfair dismissal by a part-time worker was doomed to failure: see paragraph 9(1)(f) of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974. (ii) In 1976 Mrs Biggs could not reasonably have been expected to be aware of the existence of her directly effective rights under article 119 or of her right to assert that paragraph 9(1)(f) should be disapplied. (iii) The fact that Mrs Biggs would have been unaware of her rights was because the United Kingdom was in breach of its obligations under article 5 of the Treaty of Rome (Cmnd 5179) in failing to ensure that the provisions of national legislation was efficient to make individuals fully aware of their rights.

His Lordship could see the force of that argument. Moreover, in 1976 the impact and importance of section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972 was not widely known. Nor was the decision in *Defrenne v Sabena* ([1976] ICR 547) fully understood or taken into account even by the legal profession.

In the end, however, his Lordship was driven to the conclusion that if the words "reasonably practicable" were properly construed in their context, Mr Justice Mummery was correct in the Employment Appeal Tribunal in concluding that it was reasonably practicable for Mrs Biggs to have made her claim within the prescribed time. Her mistake as to what her rights were was a mistake of law, not of fact.

The decision in the *EOC* case was declaratory of what the law *had always been ever since the* primacy of Community law was established by section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972. Indeed, as Mr Justice Mummery pointed out, Mrs Biggs relied on the retrospective effect of the *EOC* decision.

Accordingly, since January 1, 1973 and certainly since *Defrenne v Sabena* there was no legal impediment preventing someone who claimed that he had been unfairly dismissed from presenting a claim and arguing that the restriction on claims by part-time workers was indirectly discriminatory.

It seemed to his Lordship that in the context of section 67 the words "reasonably practicable" were directed to difficulties faced by an individual claimant, for example, by way of illness.

It was to be noted that in the *EOC* case Lord Keith had expressed the view that the applicant could bring her private law claim for a redundancy payment before an industrial tribunal and argue that the restrictions imposed on part-time workers were not objectively justified and should be disapplied. Mrs Biggs could have taken a similar course in 1976.

Furthermore, it would be contrary to the principle of legal certainty to allow past transactions to be re-opened and limitation periods to be circumvented because the existing law at the relevant time had not yet been explained or had not been fully understood.

If his Lordship was wrong in that analysis, he would agree with the chairman of the industrial tribunal that the claim was not presented within a reasonable period after the expiry of the time limit.

2 That the industrial tribunal was bound by principles of Community law to disapply to time limits.

In his Lordship's judgment, that argument also had to be rejected. Section 2 of the 1972 Act recognised the primacy of Community law. While his Lordship appreciated *the hardship which could be* caused to individual claimants, he could see no satisfactory basis for disapplying a time limit to enable a claim to be advanced which as a matter of law was capable of being enforced at the moment of dismissal.

3 That Mrs Biggs could rely on her directly enforceable rights under article 119.

It was argued that the Council of Europe could not rely on any time limit until UK law had been brought into conformity with Community law.

His Lordship could not accept *that argument based either on Emmott v Minister for Social Welfare* ([1973] ICR 8) or on Council Directive 75/117/EEC (OJ 1975 L45/19), the equal pay directive.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir Iain Glidewell delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr Andrew North, Taunton.

Pregnant woman cannot sue over vasectomy

Goodwill v British Pregnancy Advisory Service

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgement January 17]

A woman who became pregnant by a man who had had a vasectomy many years before he had *started the relationship with her* had no claims against those who had performed the vasectomy and assured him that it had been successful.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service against the refusal by Judge Paul Clark in Oxford County Court to strike out the claims of the plaintiff, Alison Caroline Faith Goodwill, on the ground that the statement of claim disclosed no reasonable cause of action or alternatively was frivolous or was an abuse of process.

Mr Roger Stewart for the defendant; Miss Cherie Booth, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that a doctor who performed a vasectomy on a man on his instructions could not realistically be described as employed to confer a benefit on the man's sexual partners in the form of avoiding pregnancy. Still less could he be so described when he was giving advice on tests after the operation.

The doctor was concerned only with the man, his patient, and possibly that man's wife or partner if the doctor intended her to receive and she received advice from the doctor in relation to the vasectomy and the subsequent tests.

Whether the avoidance of pregnancy was a benefit or a disadvantage to a sexual partner of the man would depend on her circumstances. If the existence of that partner was known to the doctor and the doctor was aware that she wished not to become pregnant by the man and the vasectomy was carried out to meet her wish as well as his, it might be said that the doctor was employed to confer that benefit on her.

But that was not the instant case. In any event no complaint was made of the vasectomy; it was only the advice following the vasectomy that the doctor gave the man that was the subject of complaint.

Thake v Maurice ([1986] QB 644) was the closest to the present on its facts. *That was a successful action* in contract and in tort by a husband and wife whom the defendant surgeon had failed to warn of the slight risk that the husband's vasectomy might not leave him permanently sterile. But in that case advice on the husband's vasectomy had been given directly to the him and his wife, and both had signed forms consenting to the vasectomy.

There could be no doubt therefore that a duty of care was owed by the surgeon to the wife when the surgeon advised the husband and the wife that they might reasonably take no further contraceptive precautions.

It was not alleged nor could it reasonably be alleged that the defendants knew that their advice when communicated to the plaintiff was likely to be acted upon by her without further inquiry. The defendants could know nothing about the likely *course of action of* future sexual partners of the man.

On the plaintiff's pleadings the defendants were not in a sufficient or any special relationship with the plaintiff such as gave rise to a duty of care. It could not be said of the defendants that they voluntarily assumed responsibility to the plaintiff when giving advice to the man.

At that time they had no knowledge of her, she was not an existing sexual partner of the man but was merely, like any other woman in the world, a potential future sexual partner of his, that was to say a member of an indeterminately large class of females who might have sexual relations with the man during his lifetime.

It was impossible to believe that the policy of the law was or should be to treat so tenuous a relationship between the adviser and the *advised as giving rise to a duty of* care and there was no analogous situation recognised as giving rise to that duty.

Lord Justice Thorpe delivered a concurring judgment

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Linnells.

Estoppel principles apply to formal dismissal

Barber v Staffordshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment January 26]

There was nothing in the principles of cause of action estoppel or issue estoppel which *restricted* their application to a reasoned decision of an industrial tribunal; those principles applied equally when a case was dismissed formally by the tribunal following its withdrawal by an applicant.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Mrs Mary Andrea Roberta Barber against the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mr J. A. Scouller and Mr A. C. Blyghton) allowing on October 30, 1995 an appeal by Staffordshire County Council from Mr J. G. Haslam at a Birmingham industrial tribunal on an interlocutory hearing.

Mr James Goudie, QC, for Mrs Barber; Mr T. Brendan Hegarty, QC and Miss Joanna Connolly for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that Mrs Barber instituted the present proceedings against the county council seeking redundancy payments and awards of compensation for unfair dismissal. The claims were based on the *termination of three contracts of* part-time employment whereby Mrs Barber was formerly employed as a teacher.

The appeal was concerned with two of the contracts at Manifold School (September 1, 1984 to August 31, 1992) and St Leonard's School (September 1, 1989 to August 31, 1992).

Following her dismissal from those schools, Mrs Barber was advised by her union that her hours of work at those schools could be aggregated and she presented a complaint to an industrial tribunal claiming redundancy payment.

However, when Mrs Barber's representative became aware of the House of Lords decision in *Surrey County Council v Lewis* ([1988] AC 323) holding that it was impermissible to aggregate the hours worked under separate *concurrent contracts with the same* employer, Mrs Barber withdrew her application.

Accordingly, the industrial tribunal dismissed her application pursuant to regulation 12(2)(c) of Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunals (Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1985 No 16).

Following the decision by the House of Lords in *R v Secretary of State of Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* ([1995] AC 1) Mrs Barber presented *a further application on May 3,* 1994. The council resisted the claim raising, inter alia, a plea of res judicata.

The industrial tribunal concluded that the proceedings were not subject to res judicata and held that while Mrs Barber could not *pursue a claim under domestic law* but that she could proceed in separate and distinct litigation under European law. The council appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The arguments before the Employment Appeal Tribunal followed a *different* course from that before the industrial tribunal. Thus it was accepted on behalf of Mrs Barber that in the light of *Biggs v Somerset County Council (The Times* July 17, 1995; [1995] ICR 811) it was not possible to argue that the claims for unfair dismissal and *redundancy* could be *brought* as causes of action under EC law.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal concluded that the principles of cause of action estoppel and issue estoppel applied to an application which had been withdrawn and that there were no exceptional circumstances which entitled Mrs Barber to continue with her application.

Article 119 of the EEC Treaty (Cmnd 5179) did not confer any right to a redundancy payment or *any right for compensation* for unfair dismissal. Its provisions were directed to ensuring that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.

It could be relied upon to disapply barriers to a claim which were incompatible with Com*munity law. The statutory conditions* which had to be satisfied before compensation could be obtained could therefore be disapplied if they were discriminatory and contrary to Community law.

It was argued for Mrs Barber *that on May 5, 1993 the industrial* tribunal had made no relevant determination; it had simply dismissed her claim for redundancy by means of an administrative action.

In his Lordship's judgment, the Employment Appeal Tribunal was *right when they held that there* was nothing in the principles of cause of action or issue estoppel which stipulated that they could only apply in cases where a tribunal had given a reasoned decision on the issues of fact and law.

Section 140 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 contained provisions which rendered void any agreement to preclude a person from bringing proceedings before an industrial *tribunal. A tribunal had therefore* to be satisfied that a withdrawal was properly made.

His Lordship would turn to the unfair dismissal claim.

In *Arnold v National Westminster Bank plc* ([1991] 2 AC 93), the House of Lords considered *what special circumstances* would allow the reopening of an issue which had already been decided inter partes. It was held that the doctrine of issue estoppel was not inflexible and a disputed issue could be reopened where it would in effect be an abuse of process if *permission were refused.*

It seemed to follow from that case that it would be possible in special circumstances to allow a claim to be put forward which was not the subject of res judicata in the strict sense but which could have been brought forward in some earlier proceedings.

However, relaxation of the rule did not assist Mrs Barber in the present case. The qualifying conditions for her claim for a redundancy payment were the same as those for a claim for compensation for unfair dismissal. It was not the provisions of the 1978 Act which prevented the addition of the second claim.

Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr David Wright, Staffordshire.

Only one right of appeal in each asylum application

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Onibiyo

Before Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment January 19]

Where an asylum application had been rejected by the Secretary of State for the Home Department and on appeal, any renewed claim made without an intervening absence from the United Kingdom would be a mere extension of the original application to be considered at the secretary of state's discretion with no further right of appeal to an adjudicator.

Mr Justice Latham so held in the Queen's *Bench Division* when dismissing the application of Ademola Onibiyo for, inter alia, certiorari to quash refusals of the Home Secretary of December 12, 1995 (i) of an application for asylum and (ii) to refer fresh material to the immigration appellate authorities.

The applicant made a claim for asylum which was refused on appeal by the special adjudicator on September 26, 1995 and then, because new facts had emerged, he made a further application on November 30, 1995.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Duran Seddon for Onibiyo; Mr Neil Garnham for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE LATHAM said that an application for leave to enter the United Kingdom might be made on a number of different grounds. One of those grounds was a claim for asylum.

Such an application, on a proper construction of sections 3 and 13 of the Immigration Act 1971, was held in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Secretary of State for the Home Department* ([1990] 1 WLR 1126) *to be capable of being a* separate application, if made subsequent to an application rejected on other grounds.

The effect of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 had been to provide a separate statutory scheme for applications based upon a claim for asylum.

There was nothing in the decision or reasoning of the Court of Appeal in *Ex parte Secretary of State for the Home Department* to suggest that such an application could itself be subdivided, in the sense that an application for asylum on one basis was to be considered to be separate from an application for asylum made on a different basis.

The statutory scheme of the 1993 Act envisaged that a claim for asylum which became a historical fact entitled the asylum seeker to *exercise a right of appeal under* section 8 against any relevant administrative decision or action.

Any further material submitted or applications made by or on behalf of the asylum seeker were submitted or made in support of the original claim whether they were made before or after the secretary of state had made his decision or before or after any appeal under section 8.

If the appeal had been dismissed, then the material or applications would be considered by the secretary of state in the exercise of his discretion to reconsider his decision, and, if he considered it appropriate, to refer any matter arising to an adjudicator.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Stockwell; Treasury Solicitor.

Misdirection on reasonable excuse defence

Regina v Berry

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment January 22]

A man convicted of child abduction had his conviction quashed because the jury were misdirected about the effect on his defence of the construction of section 2(3) of the Child Abduction Act 1984 as amended by section 108 of, and paragraph 38 in Schedule 12 to the Children Act 1989.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Thomas Clive Berry, aged 40, of Whitehill, Hampshire, against his conviction at Winchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Tuckey and a jury) on a charge that, contrary to section 2(1)(a) of the 1984 Act, he "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse took or detained . . . a child under the age of 16 years so as to remove the child from the lawful control of the person having lawful control of the child. . ." for which he was sentenced to 12 months.

Section 2, as amended, provides: "(1) Subject to subsection (3) below, a person other than one mentioned in subsection (2) below commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he takes or detains a child under the age of sixteen — (a) so as to remove him from the lawful control of any person having lawful control of the child. . .

"(2) The persons are . . . (b) where the father and mother of the child in question were not married to each other at the time of his birth, the mother; and (c) any other person" inter alia, a guardian and someone having control of the child.

"(3) In proceedings against any person for an offence under this section, it shall be a defence for that person to prove — (a) where the father and mother of the child in question were not married to each other at the time of his birth . . . (ii) that, at the time of the alleged offence, he believed on reasonable grounds, that he was the child's father. . ."

Mr Jeremy Wright, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Butt for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the defence was that the appellant honestly but mistakenly believed that he was the child's father.

In construing the difficult provisions of section 2 the significance of the phrase "the child in question" was not appreciated by any of *those concerned in the trial. In the* result the judge directed the jury to consider whether the defence had discharged the burden placed on the appellant by subsection (3).

In fact the child in question in the present case was another child with the same name. The "child in question" in subsection (3) harked back to "a child" in subsection (1), that is, the child which had been taken or detained.

Accordingly subsection (3) simply did not apply in the present case. The facts raised by the appellant fell to be considered under section 2(1) by reference to the phrases "unlawful authority or reasonable excuse".

It had been common ground that the offence existed in taking or detaining a child under 16 and that the burden of proving that the taking or detaining without lawful authority or reasonable excuse rested on the prosecution.

Also it was common ground that, on the general principle that, if the facts as the appellant believed them to be would have afforded him lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the prosecution would have failed to prove the offence. *Thus, if the appellant* honestly and mistakenly believed the child was his daughter it would have been open to the jury to conclude that that constituted a reasonable excuse. Unfortunately, because of the way in which section 2 was construed and the way in which the defence was relating to its provisions, the jury was steered away from the correct issues and the correct burden of proof.

The trial judge correctly identified the ingredients of the offence, but he said "forget about reasonable excuse" because the appellant was saying that he was the father of the child and Parliament had dealt specifically with that.

However, they had to consider the question of lawful authority and he gave them a correct direction that the prosecution had to negative lawful authority.

In their Lordships' judgment, by telling the jury to forget about reasonable excuse because it was covered by section 2(3), the judge *fell into error. He went on to give* the jury full directions about the statutory defence under section 2(3), which were inapplicable to the present case.

The jury clearly had difficulty with the inter-related questions of reasonable excuse to the appellant's belief. They had retired from 11.27am and had been given a majority direction at 2.41pm and returned at 3.08pm to say that they were having difficulty over reasonable excuse and how to interpret it.

They asked the judge to confirm whether their judgment was to be based as if the appellant had reasonable excuse for his actions or if the actions taken were based on the jury's opinion of acceptability.

The judge answered by repeating that they could forget about reasonable excuse for present purposes because the appellant was saying that he was the child's *father and Parliament had dealt* specifically with that in section 2(3) and for the purpose of establishing the ingredients of the charge, the jury were not concerned with reasonable excuse at all.

In answering that question in that way the judge, in their Lordships' judgment, had misdirected the jury.

Mr Butt submitted that the verdict was safe. However, their Lordships had concluded that, where the fundamental directions on law were in error, as in the present case, those were the issues to be considered. The verdict could not be considered as safe. It was quashed and the appeal was allowed.

His Lordship added that, having regard to the evidence, the present would have been a case for a retrial but, since the appellant had served half of his 12-month sentence, their Lordships did not consider that a retrial should be ordered.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Eastleigh.

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THE TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE

Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a *Times*/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

Our capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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THE TIMES

PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

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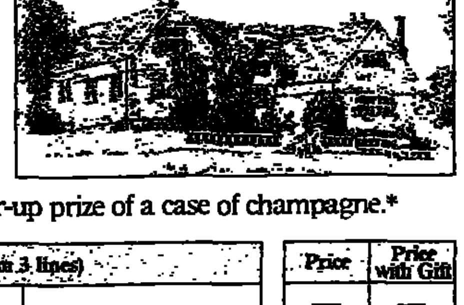

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Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9,061.80	ABN-AMRO	2987½	− 81¼	4.3	11.2
8,342.40	Abbey Nat	602	− 28	3.8	12.7
2,529.40	Allied Irish	379	+ 1	3.8	11.0
4,502.50	Aus New Z	324	+ 6	5.0	..
14,745.60	Bank America	4212½	+218¾	..	..
3,985.00	Bank Scotland	311½	+ 14	2.5	13.8
12,773.20	Barclays	787½	+ 15½	3.8	10.7
2,318.10	Bk of Ireland	462	+ 2	3.5	9.7
154.50	Cater Allen	474	+ 4	7.9	7.8
18,223.20	Citicorp	4681¼	+ 168¾	..	
412.70	Close Bros	378	+ 7	3.2	15.0
5,418.20	Commerzbk	£151¼	−45¾	3.5	..
38,730.50	Dai Ichi Kan Y	12405	+ 25	0.4	
30,778.40	Deutsche Bk	3170¾	+ 67½	2.3	
154.70	Espirito Santo	725	+ 12½	5.1	9.4
42,828.80	Fuji Bank Y	1478¼	+ 13¼	0.4	
229.40	Gerrard Nat	470	+ 3	6.0	15.2
350.10	Hambros	198	− 2	4.7	
9,438.50	HSBC	1057½	+ 21½	3.2	14.3
19,098.00	HSBC HK	1076	+ 27½	3.3	14.0
351.00	Irish Perm	421	..	2.9	9.7
24.00	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.8
38.58	King Shaxson	148		7.7	11.3
17,453.20	Lloyds TSB	343½	− 3½		
8,610.00	Nat Aust Bk	617	+ 6	6.0	8.4
11,759.40	Nat West	664	− 1	4.3	10.3
31.40	Rea Brothers	65	..	1.9	26.0
4,775.30	Royl Bk Scot†	597	+ 19	3.4	13.4
1,055.50	Schroders	1295	− 40	1.4	18.4
452.30	Schroders N/V	1020	− 32	1.7	14.6
204.20	Singer & Fried	103½	+ 1½	4.5	10.7
6,180.60	Stand Chart	636	+ 20	1.8	16.0
28.10	Union	98	+ 1	3.8	
7,707.00	Wells Fargo	£150¾	+1082	2.0	..
5,526.00	Westpac	303	+ ¼	4.5	..
23.20	Wintrust	270	..	5.5	15.2

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
28.90	ABI Leis	87½	− ½	6.2	9.0
19.80	Adam & Harvey	443		5.5	5.8
8.45	Alexanders†	16	+ ¼	2.5	...
70.60	Applyard	106	+ 2	7.1	11.4
8.19	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	
146.00	BSS Group	635	+ 20	4.4	15.9
63.10	Bandt	37			
5.68	Bearing Power†	16		9.8	11.4
1.26	Bogod 'A'†	35		3.5	8.8
203.40	Brammer	448	+ 6	3.8	17.2
5.50	Bridgend Gp	20	...	1.2	
20.00	Brit Fittings	84	..	4.8	12.7
8.09	Caffyns	245		5.9	36.9
10.30	Central Mtr	75	− 1	0.8	
34.10	Charles Sidney	82	..	5.8	12.9
24.70	Cook (DC)	67½	+ 2½	3.7	8.4
529.30	Cowie	328	+ 18	3.8	14.2
30.50	Dag Motors	126	...	7.1	10.4
24.10	Dewhurst Bt	548	+ 8	2.3	12.4
228.60	Diploma	409	+ 3	4.4	13.3
1,480.80	Electrocomps	350	+ 13	2.1	23.8
175.80	Essoda Elec	302	− 3	1.7	20.9
51.60	Eurodollar†	104	+ 3	9.4	6.3
56.20	European Mtr	103	+ 2	8.3	8.8
105.90	Evans Halshaw	330	+ 22	5.9	18.2
835.40	Farnell Elect	612	− 67	2.0	17.8
10.20	File Indexing	66		6.2	10.8
13.60	Gardner	78¼	...	5.6	8.0
10.90	Glentheaton	36	+ 1½	1.0	
8.10	Gomings	88		3.2	14.8
24.60	Hanis (Philip)	226	+ 7	4.1	14.4
69.40	Headlam	215	− 6	2.4	18.8
301.40	Heywood	572	+ 5	2.2	21.3
4.15	Holders Tech	133		5.6	25.3
62.80	ISA Intl	157	+ 1	1.3	17.2
1,394.20	Inchcape	284	− 4	7.1	24.0
6.26	Jacks (Wm)	58		1.6	11.1
306.00	Kwik-Fit	177	+ 3	3.2	15.1
369.80	Lex Service	327	− 3	5.5	17.4
28.10	Lookers	144		7.1	
18.00	Malaya Grp	11	+ ¼	5.5	14.8
52.70	Middlesex	8½	+ ¼	0.7	20.1
23.70	Midlands	45	+ 3		6.9
48.00	Nesbitt	462	− 13	2.0	15.7
41.80	Northamber†	246	− 6	0.9	19.7
12.40	PCT	138	+ 4	6.9	9.8
106.40	Pendragon	277	..	3.8	14.5
37.40	Perry Gp	148		6.5	11.2
33.00	Quicks Group	143	+ 3	5.0	12.2
16.60	REA	187	+ 2	2.7	22.3
4.87	Reece	2¼	..		
35.10	Remoot	56	− 3	2.8	11.4
4.06	Ross Gp	2¼	− ¼		
49.60	SEP Ind	54	..	3.8	
36.30	Salifre	14	+ ¼	..	8.0
141.00	Time Products	264	+ 3	4.4	15.4
128.80	Vardy (Reg)	273	..	2.8	15.1
47.60	Wholesale Ftgs	323	..	4.4	20.8
45.80	Willshaw†	49¼	− 6¼	2.0	11.7
42.20	Wyko	83		1.9	
19.10	Young (H)	115	+ 1	4.2	13.4

Capitalisation, week's change

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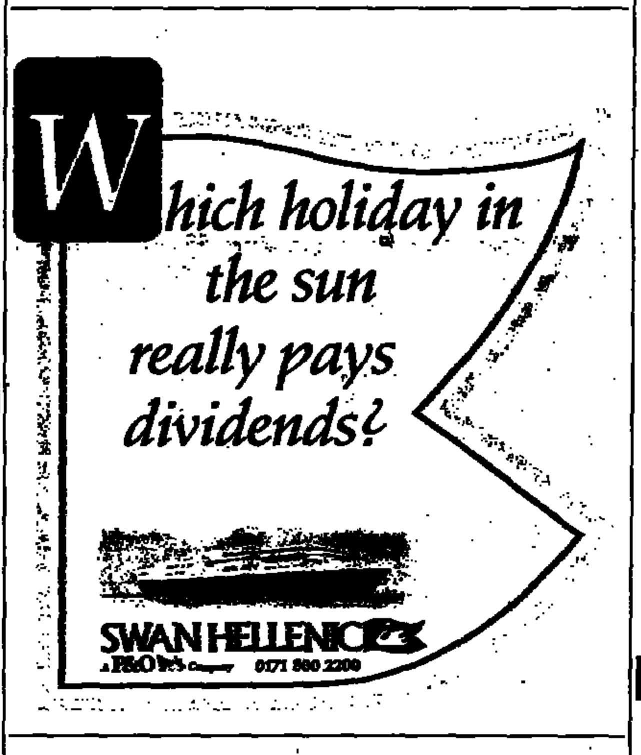
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1,137.40	Brit Biotech	2350	+455	...	...
57.00	Cantab Pharms	528	+143	...	...
479.60	Celltech	857	+ 52		
212.20	Chiroscience	312	+ 2		...
364.60	Cortecs	282	+ 72	...	...
31,784.40	Glaxo Wellcome	906	− 5½	4.1	20.7
169.00	Medeva	223	− 22	2.8	14.3
460.30	Scotia	806	+ 22		
10,115.00	SmithKline	722½	+ 15½	2.3	21.5
9,486.80	SmithKline Uts	718	+ 22	2.4	21.3
11,970.10	Zeneca	1284	− 10	2.8	25.8

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,449.20	Allied Domecq†	527	− 3	5.6	19.1
276.70	Bulmer (HP)†	924	+ 16	2.9	16.4
73.50	Burn Stewart	124	− 1	5.0	26.7
9,367.70	Grand Met	448	− 4	4.2	15.6
9,456.80	Guinness	467	− 3	3.8	14.5
427.60	Highland Dist	327	− 5	3.1	14.5
197.20	Macallan-Glen	168	− 10	1.0	37.3
57.00	Mortin Mtn 'A'	635		2.1	17.9
587.20	Matthew Clark	668	− 8	4.2	
11.70	Morydun W	107	− 1	2.3	

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
7,150	Treas 15¼% 1996	102⅝	− ⅛	14.87	5.97
800	Exch 13¼% 1996	102¼	− ⅛	12.98	6.05
3,409	Conv 10% 1996	103⅛	− ⅛	9.70	5.91
1,986	Treas 7% 1997	101⅛ †	− ⅛	6.91	6.05
1,290	Treas 13¼% 1997	106⅞	− ⅛	12.38	5.88
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅞	− ⅛	10.04	6.94
5,560	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⅞	− ⅛	8.42	6.07
830	Exch 15% 1997	114⅞	− ⅛	13.11	6.11
3,650	Exch 9¾% 1998	106⅝	− ⅛	9.15	6.19
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	102⅛	− ⅛	7.10	6.23
1,200	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅞	+ ⅛	6.74	6.65
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	116⅝	− ⅛	12.04	6.33
935	Treas 15½% 1998	122	− ⅛	12.70	6.38
3,903	Exch 12% 1998	114⅞	− ⅛	10.52	6.43
1,980	Treas 9½% 1999	108	− ⅛	8.80	6.48
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	116	− ⅛	10.58	6.55
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	111⅛	− ⅛	9.42	6.58
6,600	Treas 6% 1999	98⅛	− ⅛	6.12	6.60
1,786	Conv 10¼% 1999	111⅛	− ⅛	9.17	6.68
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	108	− ⅛	8.33	6.71
4,800	Treas 8% 2000	105⅛	− ⅛	7.62	6.74
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	123⅛	− ⅛	10.62	6.74
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	113⅛	− ¼	8.84	6.92
7,750	Treas 7% 2001	100⅛	− ⅛	6.96	6.92
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅛	− ⅛	8.58	7.10
9,600	Treas 8% 2003	104⅛	− ⅛	7.65	7.17
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	115⅛	− ⅛	8.63	7.23
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118⅛	− ⅛	9.67	7.02
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82⅛	− ⅛	4.22	6.12
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	113⅛	− ⅛	8.36	7.48
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	95⅛	− ⅛	7.04	7.40
6,800	Treas 8½% 2005	107⅛	− ⅛	7.92	7.43
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	113⅛	− 1⅛	8.38	7.46
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129⅛	− 1⅛	9.62	7.37
8,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	100⅛	− 1⅛	7.47	7.44
3,900	Treas 7¾% 2006	101⅛	− 1⅛	7.60	7.40
2,000	Treas 8% 2002-06	102⅝	− 1⅛	7.78	7.80
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123⅝	− ⅛	9.49	7.31
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	107⅛	− 1⅛	7.91	7.53
1,250	Treas 13½% 2004-08	138⅛	− 1⅛	9.66	7.58
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	111⅛	− 1¼	8.08	7.58
3,458	Treas 8% 2009	103	− 1¼	7.77	7.64
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	87⅛	− 1⅛	7.18	7.73
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	111⅛	− 1¼	8.08	7.73
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	111⅛	− 1⅛	8.08	7.73
1,880	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81½	− 1⅛	6.75	7.47
8,100	Treas 8% 2013	102⅝	− 1⅛	7.81	7.75
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100⅛ †	− 1	7.75	7.76
6,500	Treas 8% 2015	102⅛	− 1⅛	7.81	7.76
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	109⅛	− 1⅛	7.97	7.81
1,000	Exch 12% 2013-17	139⅛	− 1⅛	8.60	7.85
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	44⅛	− ⅛	7.78	..
475	Treas 2½%	31⅛	...	7.88	..
359	Consols 4%	50¼ 1	− ⅛	7.96	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
1,200	Treas IL 2% 1996	215⅛	+ ⅛	...	2.11
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113⅛	...	1.20	2.46
1,700	Treas IL 2½% 2001	179⅛	− ⅛	2.80	3.31
1,700	Treas IL 2½% 2003	179⅛	− ⅛	3.01	3.40
1,000	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	116⅛	− ⅛	3.01	3.37
1,950	Treas IL 2% 2006	184⅛	− ⅛	3.15	3.43
2,050	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166⅛	− 1⅛	3.28	3.49
2,350	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172⅛	− 1⅛	3.32	3.53
2,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141⅛	− 1⅛	3.37	3.55
3,050	Treas IL 2½% 2016	151⅛ †	− 1⅛	3.42	3.60
2,980	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144⅛	− 1⅛	3.48	3.63
2,700	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120⅛	− 1⅛	3.47	3.61
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119⅛	− 1⅛	3.49	3.67

Source: Fintel

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

[نسخة من الأصل]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Courtyard Leisure, Filtronic Comtek, Haynes Publishing, Joseph Hoyle & Son, TR Smaller Cos Inv Tst.
Finals: Bullough, Eurocamp, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, SGS-Thomson, St Andrews Trust, Soundtracs, Trencherwood, USDC Inv Tst.

TOMORROW

Interims: Adscene Group, Birkdale Group, Edinburgh Smaller Cos, Games Workshop Group, Kay's Food Group, Property Trust, Wyko Group.
Finals: Lorien Group, Northern Rock BS, Harry Ramsden's.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Anglo United, Asia Healthcare, Beales Hunter, Bucknall Group, Cavaghan & Gray, J&J Dyson, Eurodis Electron, Hidong Estate, High Income Trust, Illingworth Morris, Peel Holdings, Regent Corp, Zetters Group.
Finals: Allied Textile Companies, Fyffes, Porvair.
Economic statistics: Minutes of the (December 13) monthly meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England, *gilt auction (£3 billion Treasury 8 per cent 2000)*, UK council of mortgage lenders survey.

THURSDAY

Interims: Peter Black Holdings, Misys, Select Industries, TR City of London, Wholesale Fittings.
Finals: Gartmore British Income & Growth, Hotspur Investments.
Economic statistics: Purchasing managers' survey (January), balance of visible trade (November).

FRIDAY

Finals: Malvern UK Index, Mithras Inv Tst, Motor World Group.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Allied Textiles, BET, Bemrose. **Sell** United Biscuits. **Hold** Standard Chartered. *The Sunday Telegraph* **Buy** RJB, Chiroscience, Aromascan. *The Mail on Sunday* **Buy** Bensons Crisps, Westmount Energy, Caledonian Media Group. **Sell** Firecrest.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Hanson steps into the limelight

LORD HANSON will take centre stage on Wednesday when he chairs the annual meeting of his Anglo-American industrial conglomerate, becoming the focus of attention in an otherwise quiet week for companies reporting.

Hanson will be watched for any comments it makes on the health of the economy on both sides of the Atlantic. The group's interests span batteries to building materials in Britain, while its American operations include Quantum, its US chemicals arm, where recovery prospects for polyethelyne prices look brighter after recent rises by Dow Chemical.

Analysts also await news on progress at Eastern Electricity, the electricity distribution company acquired for £2.5 billion last year, and Hanson's business disposal programme as it attempts to cut debts and reduce gearing.

Further disposals are awaited after Hanson said last month that it planned to raise £1.5 billion in the US by selling Cavenham Forest Industries and floating off a majority stake in Suburban Propane.

MISYS: Thursday's interim results from the computer software supplier will be among the week's biggest. Misys is expected to show a jump in first-half profits, although the advance will be largely down to a full six-month contribution from ACT, bought last year for £212 million.

Attention will focus on Misys's progress in integrating ACT, although some analysts are critical that the group's management has failed to adopt FRS7 accounting standards. Misys should benefit from selling new computer systems to banks, especially in developing markets.

There are also healthy prospects for benefits from ACT's expertise in derivatives and global risk management. The group's insurance division, which has a dominant market share in products for insurance brokers and intermediaries, should also do well in a fast-growing sector.

Interim pre-tax profits are expected to advance to £22.6 million, compared with £11.2 million last time, according to Paul Morland, of NatWest Securities. Market forecasts range from £20 million to £24 million. A dividend of 4p (3.45p) is predicted.

ALLIED TEXTILE COMPANIES: A combination of organic growth and acquisitions should help the Yorkshire textiles company, which makes products from nylon to carpets, turn in resilient full-year results when it reports on Wednesday, in spite of the harsh conditions gripping the UK textiles market.

The company is regarded as a well run business and although the UK carpet operation is likely to show the effects of a depressed housing market, Allied's exposure *to continental markets, ranging* from carpet-making in Belgium to weaving in France, should reap rewards, as should a solid performance from acquisitions in Canada and America.

Attention will focus on current trading and prospects as the group's diverse span of textile activities will provide a good indication of how the sector is faring.

Julia Blake, of BZW, expects final pre-tax profits to climb to £18.6 million, against £17 million last time. A dividend of 7.2p (6.75p) is predicted.

GAMES WORKSHOP: The fantasy wargames specialist will unveil timely interim results tomorrow in a week when the Toy Fair starts at London's Olympia.

The company, which has more *than 95 retail outlets, mostly in the* UK, but also in France, Spain, North America and Australia, should escape the competitive conditions that have hit other retailers.

The key reason behind consistent sales growth is that demand for the type of products sold by Games Workshop tends to come from those who have a hobby in this field. Furthermore, with no direct competitors and a vertically integrated operation in most of its territories, Games Workshop has more control over pricing, volumes and costs.

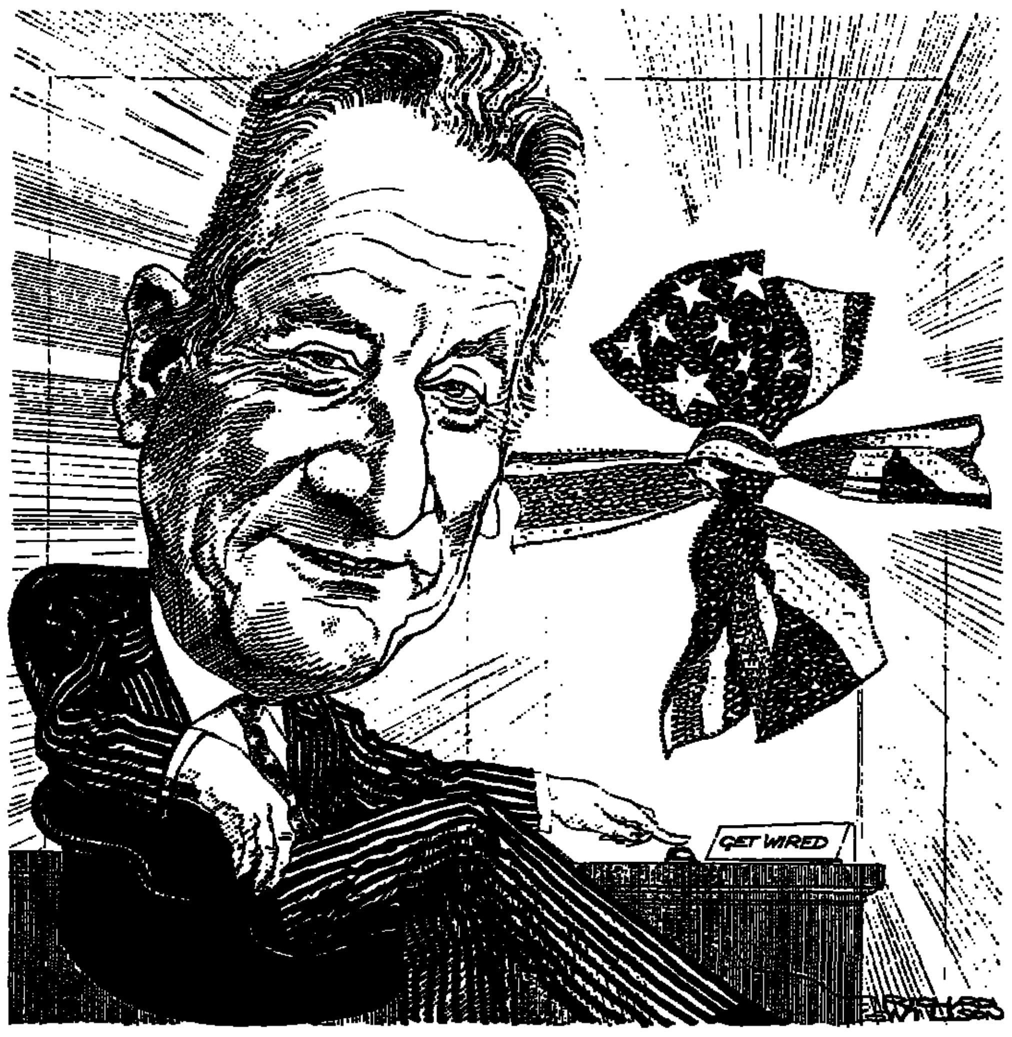
Merrill Lynch recently successfully placed nearly 10 per cent of the company at 267p, compared with a present level of more than £3. The shares have been buoyed by speculative interest in the wake of Mattel's $5.2 billion hostile offer for Hasbro, its fellow American toy group.

Tim Steer, of Merrill Lynch, has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of at least £2.9 million, up from £2.47 million last time, with the dividend likely to be up on last time's payout of 1.5p.

***BULLOUGH**: The engineering* and office products group is expected to suffer a setback in its annual results, due out today. UBS is looking for final pre-tax profits to fall to £16.5 million, from £17.5 million last time, with a dividend of 6.8p (11.6p) predicted. The key will be how hard Bullough's French office furniture business has been struggling. UK office equipment, refrigeration and heating activity should show resilience.

WYKO: The ball bearings to transmission components distrib*utor is set to report interims* tomorrow and will be hoping for better foreign earnings against the background of a more stable pound against the mark. Analysts are looking for some improvement from last time's £700,000, although they await what Richard Johnson, the recently appointed chief executive, has to say. Williams de Broë expects Wyko to turn in first-half pre-tax profits of £1.75 million.

BEALE: Today will bring the first annual results from the department store group that was *floated last March. The Bourne*mouth retailer made profits of £2.9 million in the year to October 1994, on turnover of £43 million, when it was still private. Beeson Gregory expects pre-tax profits to hit £3.1 million, with a dividend of 6.6p anticipated.



Analysts await news from Lord Hanson on the drive to cut debts and reduce gearing

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Rate watch on US and Germany

The major focus of the financial markets this week will be the United States. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which meets tomorrow and Wednesday, is likely to discuss whether US interest rates will be lowered again.

Recent statistics have tended to suggest that the economy has been weakening a little. Consumer confidence dropped in December after a deceleration of consumer credit growth in November.

Coinciding with the FOMC meeting are US retail sales figures for December, which will be watched for more concrete evidence that growth is once again losing steam.

The case for a further US rate cut is by *no means clear cut and all US data is of* intense interest to the markets.

Also due to be published this week are figures for producer prices on Wednesday, consumer prices on Thursday and employment on Friday.

The Bundesbank's policy-making council also meets on Thursday, but a cut in official German rates is not expected at this stage.

Senior Bundesbank officials have made it clear that any easing of policy will be done through the repurchase rate, which has been cut quite aggressively recently, and that any further cuts in official rates will depend on trends in M3 money supply.

Key German statistics are also due this week, including industrial production for December, which will give further clues as to the extent of the German slowdown.

In Britain, there is little data of interest except for the January report from *purchasing managers, the first available* snapshot of economic activity in the month, is published on Thursday.

Also due on Thursday are global visible trade figures for November, as well as final money data, including consumer credit, for December.

The other focus of the week will be the Wednesday publication of the minutes of the monthly monetary meeting on December 13, which was followed by a quarter-point cut in base rates. Given the concrete result of that meeting, the minutes will not be nearly as interesting to the market as those of January's meeting, which also *resulted in a quarter-point cut.*

Given the Bank of England's subsequent silence on the issue of the rate cut, the markets are eager to see the balance of arguments.

JANET BUSH

COLLECT THREE TOKENS AND ENJOY SHORT BREAKS IN EUROPE WITH *THE TIMES*

European breaks from just £29

With *The Times* you can take some spectacular breaks in Europe, via Le Shuttle, at prices, from as little as £29 per person, arranged exclusively for our readers by EuroDrive, the continental motoring specialists.

Our money-saving packages, available between February 1 and March 31, 1996, offer 175 hotels in 12 European countries all carefully selected by EuroDrive. For example, you and three friends could nip across the Channel to Amiens, a leisurely drive from Calais, to see the magnificent gothic cathedral, Les Hortillonnages - a maze of floating market gardens, the archaeological park of Samara or the Marquenterre nature reserve and stay in three-star comfort for only £29 per person.

Today and tomorrow we will feature 130 hotels in France including 40 hotels in the Paris area. A list of other major cities in Europe appeared on Saturday.

The comprehensive key with our European hotel listing gives you the per person prices which include the cost of the return channel crossing and one night's accommodation. The first price listed is the per person cost based on a car and four people travelling together: the second the per person price for a car and two people, and the third price is the cost per person for an extra night's stay.

In many hotels you will get the sort of luxury to which it is so easy to become accustomed. In others you get the basics allowing you to save your money for spending on other things. It's up to you.

And for readers who prefer to fly, we have negotiated special flight offers through Hamilton Travel with a guarantee that, if you find the identical flight for less within 24 hours of purchase, they will match the lower fare or give you a full refund. A list of flight destinations and fares appears below.

To take advantage of this offer collect three different tokens from *The Times* this week. Full details of how to book your short breaks and/or the flight option, if *required, will appear later this* week with a booking form.

Destination	Lowest Published Fare	Hamilton Travel Fares From:
Amsterdam	£128	£66
Brussels	£69	£66
Budapest	£299	£154
Copenhagen	£160	£129
Frankfurt	£212	£105
Geneva	£261	£149
Lisbon	£114	£94
Lyons	£204	£173
Milan	£208	£138
Munich	£272	£108
Nice	£292	£133
Paris	£69	£57
Prague	£330	£143
Rome	£239	£110
Vienna	£275	£142
Zurich	£261	£117

Terms and Conditions

1. Fares shown are per person and compared with published fares correct at the time of going to press, are subject to availability at the time of booking and are exclusive of airport taxes.
2. Reservations and enquiries should be made directly with Hamilton Travel Ltd. Details will appear this week.
3. *Full-payment is required immediately on con*firming your reservation. Only when payment is received will the ticket be issued and the fare guaranteed.
4. Amendments to confirmed reservations are subject to airline rules and regulations applicable to the fare type booked. Please ask for further details before confirming your reservation.
5. Cancellation charges are as follows: before ticket issue - £50 per passenger; after ticket issue - No refund.
6. All cheques should be made payable to Hamilton Travel Ltd. You may also pay by most *major credit and debit cards.* Credit cards transactions are subject to a 1.5% booking fee.
7. Passport/visa requirements, for destinations listed are available on request.
8. Hamilton Travel Ltd. Atol 1489.

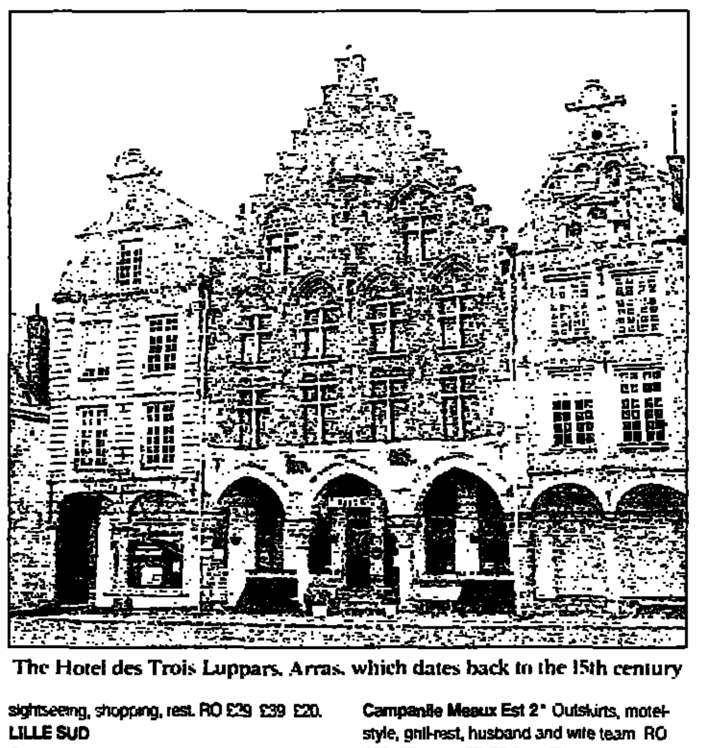
FRANCE

ABBEVILLE
Ibis 2* Just outside centre, on the road to Amiens. Rest. RO £29 £39 £15.
AMIENS
Novotel 3* Ideal location for visiting Gothic cathedral, and floating market gardens. RO £29 £39 £20 EB.
Grand Hôtel de l'Univers 3* Traditional, individually furnished bedrooms. RO £49 £59 £32.

Chartreuse du Val St Esprit, a former monastery in Gosnay

Fimotel 2* Good position for sightseeing *RO £39 £49 £18.*
ARRAS
Ibis 2* Short walk from Town Hall and Belfry, modern, but blends with local architecture of magnificent squares and tall, gabled houses. RO £29 £39 £15 EBC.
Hotel des Trois Luppars 2* Charming hotel, dating back to 15th century. RO £29 £39 £20.
BAYEUX
Novotel 3* Five-minute walk town centre, landscaped gardens, rest, bar, parking. RO £29 £39 £20.
Campanile 2* Motel-style, grill-restaurant, run by a husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
BEAUVAIS
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, run by husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
BOLLEZEELE
Hostellerie St Louis 3* Renovated country manor, rest, specialising in local poultry, fish. *RO £39 £48 £25.*
BOULOGNE
Hotel Faidherbe 2* Family-run, on one of main shopping streets. RO £29 £39 £15.
CAEN
Ibis Centre 2* Facing St Pierre yacht harbour, rest, piano bar, carpark (payable). RO £29 £39 £20.
Ibis Hérouville 2* Ten-minutes drive from Caen Ouistreham car ferry terminal. RO £29 £39 £15.
Novotel 3* North of city centre, rest, garden. RO £39 £49 £26 EB.
Campanile Hérouville 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
Interhotel le Savoy 2* Traditional two-star, central. RO £29 £39 £15.
CALAIS
Holiday Inn Garden Court 3* Overlooking port. BB £59 £69 £42.
Ibis 2* Five minutes ferry and town centre. RO £29 £39 £15.
Fimotel 2* Central, lounge-breakfast bar. RO £29 £39 £15.
Hotel Copthorne 3* In woodland, recently built, 3 mins Eurotunnel terminal, int cuisine. RO £39 £49 £24.
Georges V 3* Family-run, central, 2 good rest, regional dishes. RO £39 £49 £26.
CAMBRAI
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, *husband and wife team. RO £29 £39* £20. Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
Château de la Motte Fénelon 3* Historic, richly decorated salons, large park. RO £39 £49 £21.
CHANTELOUP (Nr Disneyland)
Hotel Chanteloup 2* Recently built, shuttle bus (payable) to theme park, rest, bar, fitness. RO £29 £39 £20
CHERBOURG
Campanile 2* Outskirts, modern, comfortable, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
COLMAR
Novotel 3* Lies at the foot of Vosges mountains, near Route des Vins, rest, bar. RO £29 £39 £20.
COMPIEGNE
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB. Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
DEAUVILLE
Ibis 2* Marina, close casino, beach, racecourse, rest, bar, garage. RO £29 £39 £15.
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
DIEPPE
Ibis 2* Outskirts, five-minute drive centre, rest, bar. RO £29 £39 £15.
Hotel Windsor 2* *Seafront, rest panoramic* Channel views, regional specialities. RO £39 £49 £20.
DUNKERQUE
Ibis 2* Outskirts, near Auchan supermarket. RO £29 £39 £15 EBC.
EPERNAY
Campanile 2* *North, motel-style grill-rest,* husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
Ibis 2* Central Epernay, 100km of champagne cellars, hotel can organise visits — with tastings. RO £29 £39 £15.
La Briqueterie 4* Luxurious, elegant gastronomic rest, indoor pool, sauna. RO £59 £69 £40.
EVREUX
Interhotel de l'Orme 3* Eure Valley, hour from Paris, traditional, prime position for discovering Normandy. RO £29 £39 £20.
GOSNAY
Chartreuse du Val St Esprit 4* Former monastery, quiet parklands, sumptuous château atmosphere. BB £59 £69 £44.
ILE DE FRANCE
Novotel Château de Maffliers 3* Parkland, 22km north of Paris, elegant bar, rest, tennis, archery, fitness room, horseriding. RO £29 £39 £20.
LAON
Campanile 2* Motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EBC *Mon-Thur supplement £5pp*
Fimotel 2* Mediaeval town perched on a hilltop, rest. RO £29 £39 £18.
LE TOUQUET
Hotel Red Fox 2* Central, comfortable, breakfast-room, lounge. RO £29 £39 £15.
Le Picardy 4* Edge of a forest, stroll to Le Touquet's shops, modern, indoor pool, *jacuzzi, gastronomic rest. RO £49 £59 £30.*
LE WAST
Château des Tourelles 2* Near Boulogne, reputation for friendly welcome and gastronomic restaurant. RO £39 £49 £22.
LILLE
Ibis Hôtel de Ville 2* Close TGV and Eurostar stations. RO £39 £49 £19
Novotel Centre 3* Near the Grand Place, rest, bar. RO £39 £49 £19.
Sofitel Metropole 4* Outskirts, comfortable, modern, elegant piano bar, rest. RO £39 £49 £26
Clarine 2* Outskirts, recently renovated, rest regional specialities, husband and wife team RO £29 £39 £20 Mon-Thur supplement £5.
Le Grand Hôtel Bellevue 3* Elegant, 18th century, main square, intimate piano bar, elegant lounge RO £39 £49 £28.
Comfort Inn 2* In Villeneuve d'Ascq, about 15 mins Lille, rest, modern. RO £29 £39 £17.
Hôtel Alliance 4* A convent for three centuries, the former cloisters remain, rest, piano bar. *RO £39 £49 £26*
Fimotel 3* Close to the Grande Place, ideal for sightseeing, shopping, rest. RO £29 £39 £20.
LILLE SUD
Campanile Lille Sud 2* Motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
LISIEUX
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
LUMBRES
Moulin de Mombreux 4* Converted 18th century watermill, Michelin-starred restaurant. RO £59 £69 £41. 2 nights for 1.
LYON
Ibis Bron Montchat 2* Off the Lyon ring road, rest. RO £29 £39 £15.
Hôtel Bleu Marine 3* Central, elegant. RO £39 £49 £22. Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 3* Central, New Orleans rest, Cajun specialities. RO £49 £59 £38.
Novotel Bron 3* Parkland, 8km south-east *Lyon, rest, bar, carpark. RO £29 £39 £20.*
MAUBEUGE
Campanile 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.
MEAUX (Nr Disneyland)
Campanile Meaux Est 2* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team RO £29 £39 £20 FR EB Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Clarine 2* Outskirts, modern, rest, regional specialities, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 Mon-Thur supplement of £5pp.
MONTE CARLO
Forte Grand Beach Plaza 4* Overlooking the Med, minutes from Casino, only hotel in Monte Carlo with private beach, two rest. BB £99 £109 £95 Min 2 nights; one a la carte evening meal and entrance to casino included.
MONTREUIL
Interhotel La Peuplerale 2* Basic, traditional, two-star. RO £29 £39 £15.
NICE
Novotel Centre 3* Near Palais des Expositions, ten-minute taxi ride from airport. RO £39 £49 £26.
Holiday Inn 3* Close seafront, rest, cable TV RO £59 £69 £44.
Le Méridien Ruhl 4* All rooms overlook *Med, rest, piano bar, health club.* RO £59 £69 £48.
NR ST OMER
Château Tilques 4* In extensive grounds, atmospheric 19th century château, rest. RO £49 £59 £30.

Cloistered comfort from £39 at The Hotel Alliance in Lille



The Hotel des Trois Luppars, Arras, which dates back to the 15th century

EB = extra bed available
FR = family room
2 + 2 = bedrooms avail for 2 adults and 2 children under 16
RO = room only
BB = bed and breakfast
EBC = extra child's bed available
pp = per person

THE TIMES
EUROPEAN
SHORT
BREAKS
TOKEN 2

CBI finds small firm orders at a standstill

By Martin Barrow

SMALL and medium enterprises reported a virtual standstill in total orders over the past four months and say growth in overall demand is approaching a three-year low.

Other key findings of a survey by the Confederation of British Industry include export orders rising more slowly than at any time over the past three years and investment intentions in plant and machinery remaining at their least positive since January 1993.

The latest Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) trends survey of 869 manufacturing companies, each employing fewer than 500 people, does, however, suggest demand and output will grow more quickly over the next four months, though expectations in earlier surveys have not been realised since the middle of last year. Business optimism fell for the second consecutive survey. Last October's fall was the first since October 1992.

The downward trend in demand and orders is likely to be echoed in the January report from purchasing managers, due on Thursday. January's first available snapshot of economic activity. John Parsons, chairman of the CBI's SME council, said: "Though this is a discouraging start to 1996 there is room for cautious optimism about the future. Investment plans are holding up, cost pressures are clearly easing and firms continue to find it difficult to raise prices in tough competitive conditions. But a continued recovery is by no means certain with our survey showing a progressive slowdown in demand and output for SMEs over the past year."

The survey shows that in January 1995 new orders were growing at the fastest rate since January 1988. Just one year later medium-sized companies — those with between 200 and 500 empoloyees — have reported no growth in demand, while small companies with up to 199 employees report a slight increase.

Profit margins were squeezed as price rises, the lowest since July 1994, were below the increases in unit costs. Although the survey reports a slowdown in the growth of unit costs, SMEs expect them to pick up slightly in the next four months.

The survey, conducted in conjunction with Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountant, shows new orders for SMEs held up slightly better than for larger firms (with more than 500 employees) who also predict job cuts over the next four months. SMEs also predict a modest rise in employment and expect a less marked decline in business confidence than larger firms.

Stephen Bourne, a partner at Pannell Kerr Forster, said: "SME's are facing difficult trading conditions. Export markets, which helped many SME's out of the last recession, are now barely growing. However, the survey does show SME's are less pessimistic than larger companies and are more likely to take on new staff."

☐ Sales of food, drink and tobacco are expected to rise sharply over the next months as some signs of consumer confidence reappear, according to the Chartered Institute of Marketing's quarterly trends survey, which also forecasts rapid growth in high street retail sales and double-digit growth in financial services.

The institute says spending will be lifting the downward trend in interest rates, tax cuts and one-off boosts to expenditure from building society demutualisation, the unfreezing of Tessas and electricity price rebates.

Listing plan by Data Sciences

Data Sciences, the information technology group that was formerly part of Thorn EMI, is planning a flotation that should value it at at least £75 million.

The flotation, due within the next three months, should raise about £40 million to repay borrowings and preference shares. Company turnover grew 18 per cent to £105.7 million in the year to September 30. Operating profits were up 80 per cent at £6.1 million.

Rescue cost

The cost of using public funds to bail out Japan's failed housing loan companies will be 10,000 yen (£62.50) for each man, woman and child in the country, according to critics of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, who plans to use Y1 billion of public money.

Export plea

Ernesto Zedillo, the President of Mexico, will today tell the CBI in London that his country offers good opportunities for trade in spite of a fall in exports to Mexico from £323 million to £225 million in the first ten months of 1995.

Outside, it is freezing, but, indoors, thoughts turn to summer as staff of Boots Contract Manufacturing begin work on the production of one million litres of sun cream at its factory at Airdrie, near Glasgow. Last year's sweltering summer helped to lift sales of sun creams by 16 per cent at Boots The Chemist, in spite of aggressive price competition

Dispute brewing over KPMG pay

By Robert Bruce

KPMG is to become the first large accountancy firm to publish an annual report and accounts, a move that is likely to provoke controversy over what will be seen as the big sums that its partners pay themselves.

The figures in the report are due to be released tomorrow afternoon and will show results for the whole partnership, average earnings for partners and earnings details of the partners who are the equivalent of board members.

The trigger for controversy is the likely revelation that KPMG's 600 partners pay themselves a total of more than £100 million. That accounts for a substantial slice of the partnership's total revenue last year of £400 million.

Observers estimate that junior partners in London earn between £125,000 and £150,000, while those with eight to ten years' partnership earn £250,000 to £300,000. KPMG differs from other partnerships in that it also has a general partnership at its heart, consisting of 20 partners who are the equivalent of a board. These partners are thought to earn about £500,000.

The senior partner, Colin Sharman, is assumed to earn between £750,000 and £1 million. In an interview when KPMG announced it would disclose its figures, he said: "I have no doubt it will be of significant interest to the tabloids."

The size of payments will take on greater significance because they will be used to estimate earnings in other partnerships. The Big Six accountancy partnerships have about 1,400 partners between them in London alone.

KPMG is moving towards greater disclosure as a *quid pro quo* for incorporating its audit business to curb the risk of partnership-threatening litigation. It also sees the move as commercially attractive in promoting its openness. Of the other accountancy firms, only Ernst & Young has said it will produce full figures this year.

Fewer homes repossessed

By Our Business Staff

FEWER homes are being repossessed by banks and building societies, and the number of homeowners struggling with mortgage arrears has dropped, according to figures to be published this week.

The figures, which will be published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders on Wednesday, will also add to growing confidence among lenders, economists and the Government that the housing market may pick up this year on the back of tax and interest rate cuts.

An upturn in the housing market is seen as a key ingredient of the "feel-good" factor.

Repossessions increased for the first time in four years in the first half of 1995 as house prices dropped and lenders ran out of patience with indebted borrowers.

Mortgage chiefs expected the situation to worsen because of October's cut in income support for homeowners losing their jobs. But Wednesday's figures, which cover the second half of last year, are expected to show slight falls in both repossessions, which totalled 25,200 in the first half, and mortgage arrears.

But the total number of repossessions for the whole year will still be about 50,000 — almost 1,000 a week — broadly unchanged from the previous year.

Lenders do not consider stabilisation of the figures at such a high level to be a major cause for celebration. However, they are hoping that a housing market recovery could get the figures back on a firm downward trend.

The consensus among mortgage lenders is that home sales will rise about 10 per cent in 1996 and prices by between 2 per cent and 3 per cent, although a survey published last week by *Roof Briefing* revealed that the public remained ceptical about any improvement.

Shortlist chosen for PLC Awards

Coopers & Lybrand

PLC AWARDS

THE voting panel for the 1995 Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, which are held in association with *The Times*, has drawn up a shortlist of companies vying for honours (Martin Barrow writes).

The judges will now conduct a more detailed inquiry into the companies that are shortlisted before inviting members of the public to cast their votes on a final selection next month.

The PLC Awards, now celebrating their tenth year, will be presented at a ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane on March 14. The winners will be selected in the categories of company of the year, new company of the year, entrepreneur of the year and best annual report.

There will also be a special individual prize, the PLC Achievement Award, in recognition of a City professional who has made an outstanding contribution to companies listed on the stock market.

GILT-EDGED

Why politics has yet to put risk premium into prices

Economic factors have pushed the gilt market higher in the early weeks of 1996. Investors have gained confidence that inflation pressures will remain subdued, and the prospects for base rate cuts have improved.

With yields as low as 7.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent at ten-year maturities, though, any further potential buyers of the market for the medium term or the long term must weigh carefully the likely returns against the market risks attached to the election. In particular, the following questions must be addressed:

☐ *To what extent has the gilt market already discounted a Labour victory?*

☐ *How much more risk will be built in ahead of the election?*

☐ *Will there be good buying opportunities around election time?*

The news that the Conservative Party has been making firm contingency plans for an autumn general election appears a tacit acknowledgement that the chances of an early poll are increasing. The odds on an overall Labour majority are short (screen-based betting services currently give Labour almost 350 of the 659 seats that will be on offer); soon the election will become the bond market's most immediate concern.

> ❛ Uncertainty created by the election has ample scope to unsettle the market ❜

It seems, though, that the market has not yet focused on the election to a significant extent. Overseas funds were persistent buyers throughout 1995; domestic investors kept fully invested as the market rose towards the year end. They have been encouraged so far not to abandon the market in 1996 by EMU convergence arguments, as well as the bullish inflation and base rate outlook. Consequently, yield spreads against other bonds, such as German bunds, have remained stable.

Therefore, little of the risk premium that one might expect to be associated with a Labour poll victory is built into the market. When the situation does become more immediate, the risk premium will increase and investment will be diversified away from gilts. This means that the overseas investor will become a regular net seller of gilts, and domestic funds will also find alternative homes for some of their cash. At that time, the yields of gilts will rise against those of international bonds — the gilt/bund spread could rise by as much as 50 basis points from current levels as the election approaches.

The optimum time to invest in gilts will probably be just before the election, as yields will be peaking then. The removal of uncertainty is always good for bond markets, and the aftermath of this election is likely to prove no different. The benign long-term outlook for bonds is underwritten by worldwide competition in labour and product markets, and the consequent diminution of inflationary fears.

The economic outlook is not the only reason to be confident about gilts in 1997 and beyond, even in the event of a Labour election victory. The current policy framework of monthly meetings between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor, and the quarterly publication of the Bank's inflation report, open monetary policy to a much greater level of scrutiny than used to be the case.

Therefore, for example, any rate cuts that might be interpreted as politically motivated now require a much more vigorous (and, one hopes, rigorous) defence from the government of the day. We have lately seen how the current Chancellor has had to defend quarter-point rate cuts against suggestions of political motivation, even at a time of weak inflation and international rate cuts.

Overall, therefore, the outlook for gilts in the very long term is favourable. However, the uncertainties created by the election and a likely change of government have ample scope to unsettle the market in 1996: returns this year are unlikely to be as high as current cash interest rates.

STEPHEN SCOTT
Kleinwort Benson

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
15.60	AMCO Corp	109	– 3	5.2	12.0
[illegible]	Abacus Recov	23			
15.40	[illegible]	125		5.5	10.4
[illegible]	African Gold	9½	– [illegible]		
4.32	Albemarle & Bd	13			
13.50	Alpha Omikron	20			
39.20	Am St Brewery	410		5.5	12.3
[illegible]	Am St Co Pf	595		[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	108	– 3		
[illegible]	[illegible]	73			
1.05	Athelney Trust	58	– 2		
[illegible]	[illegible]	6			
[illegible]	[illegible]	18			
[illegible]	[illegible]	45			
7.95	[illegible]	140			
	[illegible]	70			
[illegible]	[illegible]	50			
25.60	[illegible]	310	– 5	2.5	[illegible]
[illegible]	CC Hldgs	118			
[illegible]	CC Founder Shs	116			
[illegible]	Cafe Inns	195	– 5	2.4	9.6
[illegible]	Caledonian Tst	75			[illegible]
[illegible]	Card Clear	61	– 2		
3.72	[illegible]	55	+ [illegible]	5.6	9.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	41			31.5
5.26	Celebrated Group	18	+ 1		
[illegible]	Celtic	6750			
	Celtic Pf Shs	6750			
[illegible]	[illegible]	109	– 2	2.8	14.0
7.25	Chartwell Intl	62	+ 6		
[illegible]	ClubPartners	31			
[illegible]	[illegible]	510			
[illegible]	[illegible]	40		2.5	17.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	51	+ 1	[illegible]	12.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	70		9.5	
[illegible]	[illegible]	102			
[illegible]	Crown Products	53	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	CSS Management	175	– 5	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	36			
[illegible]	David Glass	56		5.5	9.4
55.80	Dawson Hldgs	1110	– [illegible]	2.4	
[illegible]	Dean Corp	11			[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	76	– 3		
[illegible]	Electrophoretics Intl	173	– [illegible]		
5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125			
	[illegible]	340			
[illegible]	[illegible]	115	– 30		
[illegible]	Firecrest	180	– [illegible]		76.2
6.07	[illegible]	258	– 5	0.5	
[illegible]	Flomerics	215			13.5
[illegible]	Formscan	150	+ 9	[illegible]	20.6
4.55	Furlong Homes	93		[illegible]	5.0
25.30	Gander Hldgs	[illegible]			74.7
5.73	[illegible]	17	+ 2		
32.40	[illegible]	145		[illegible]	13.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	38	– 2		
56.60	[illegible]	125	– 5	[illegible]	
10.90	[illegible]	109			
14.70	Inner Workings	28			
21.10	Intl Greetings	503			
[illegible]	Jasmin	101	+ 10		
75.50	Jennings Bros	235	+ 5	2.8	20.5
43.50	[illegible]	115			
25.30	Lancashire Enterprises	140	– 2	3.5	
14.30	Lawrence	235		0.8	
53.70	[illegible]	2750		3.2	14.0
49.40	Le Riches Strs	280	– 2	6.9	27.4
	[illegible]	[illegible]			
13.40	Lon Fiduciary	2			
7.63	London Town	[illegible]			
11.70	[illegible]	205			
12.40	[illegible]	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
46.10	Megalomedia	107	– [illegible]		
	Megalomedia Wts	[illegible]	– 3		
5.57	Meltex	[illegible]			[illegible]
247.50	Memory Corp	418	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	Metrodome Films	21			
72.80	Moorepay	[illegible]	– [illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Mountcashel	[illegible]			
19.65	MultiMedia	[illegible]			
22.90	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
	Nash (Wm)	210		[illegible]	
3.48	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
5.71	Nelson Cobbold	208		[illegible]	
	[illegible]	70	– [illegible]		
	[illegible]	70	– [illegible]		
8.36	Nthn Petm	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	Nthn Petm Wts	[illegible]			
	[illegible]	[illegible]			
17.90	Nursing Home	[illegible]	– [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11.00	Old English Pub	[illegible]	– [illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Omnicare	85	– [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11.60	Omnimedia	[illegible]	–		
[illegible]	Pacific Media	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Pacific Med Pf	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	Pan Andean Res	[illegible]	+ [illegible]		
3.66	[illegible]	135			
95.90	Pet City	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
31.80	Polymasc Pharms	159	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	Preston Nth E	400			
[illegible]	Revelation Piccadilly	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
2.38	[illegible]	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
12.10	SCS Satellite	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
4.45	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
10.40	[illegible]	[illegible]	– [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]			
66.60	SkyePharma	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
127.50	Southern News	[illegible]	– [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Southern Vectis	[illegible]			
96.50	Stanford Rook	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
14.10	[illegible]	140	+ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
44.20	TRACKER Netwk	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
5.15	Tele Cred Eur	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Tele Cred Wts	[illegible]			
18.20	Toad	[illegible]			
	Trinity Care	[illegible]		[illegible]	
	Trinity Care Pf	[illegible]			
219.60	Trocadero	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Univent	[illegible]			
3.15	Utd Auctions	[illegible]		[illegible]	
	VDC	[illegible]			
35.70	Versailles Grp	[illegible]			[illegible]
5.25	Viewinn	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Voss	[illegible]			
	Wedderburn Secs	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Wedd Secs Wts	[illegible]			
4.90	Western Selectn	[illegible]			55.7
2.44	Westmount Engy	[illegible]			
6.42	Winchester M Aid	[illegible]	– [illegible]		
	Wyndsay Props	145			
[illegible]	Zergo	290			

Good week for pharmaceutical groups

By Philip Pangalos

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

THE Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies had one of its busiest weeks so far.

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, said there were further strong gains in heavy trading for Stanford Rook Holdings, the pharmaceutical group recently boosted by a reiterated buy note from Nomura, the Japanese securities house.

The group received a further boost after a buy recommendation from Yamaichi, with talk that the Japanese securities group is suggesting that a price of £8 a share is not too adventurous in the medium term. PolyMASC Pharmaceuticals, the biopharmaceutical company that licenses products and processes to the pharmaceutical and medical diagnostics industry, also had a good week after a stock overhang was eventually cleared.

SkyePharma, Ian Gowrie-Smith's latest venture, had a good run as its rights issue saw a 94 per cent take-up.

Jasmin, the electronic systems designer, rose after accompanying increased interim profits with news of a record order book and a £5 million contract for passenger information systems for Tube trains on the Northern Line.

Trocadero, the leisure complex, raised £29.4 million through a placing and open offer. The proceeds were used to fund the acquisition of the rights to Enid Blyton's literary material, which includes *Noddy*, for £14.2 million and to install a 3D Imax cinema at its complex in Piccadilly.

Firecrest, which recently landed Internet deals with DigiPhone and Energis, launched its Global Online Directory, an index that offers users of the Internet global computer network improved access and search facilities.

Chartwell International, the merchanting group that trades in the former Soviet Union, benefited on news that it had added a mineral division to its subsdiairies.

The number of companies traded on AIM has grown to 125, compared with just ten when the market started on June 19. Capitalisation increased to £2.45 billion.

Self Sealing Systems, which owns patents on processes that seal balloons without tying a knot, should see a small premium when it starts trading today through a placing at 54p a share, capitalising it at £3.15 million.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 31

BAILHACHE
(a) Thomas à Becket. When Thomas was on his way, rising star, to become a clerk to the Archbishop (1143), he was carrying Gyrth, the woodman's hatchet, as an act of humility, to pretend he was a simple working boy rather than an ambitious intellectual. The other clerks saw through him, and jealously nicknamed him *bailhache*, ie chopper-carrier.

PIGSNEY
(c) Believe it or not, this is an ancient term of endearment to be used when addressing a girl. Etymology from the Saxon word for a gel. Try it out on your latest inamorata. She may well be charmed and delighted. Or not, depending on her girth. "Come to my arms, my delicious little pigsney. . ."

THAUMATURGE
(a) A wonder-worker. Superman, magician or other con-man. From the Greek for "wonder-worker". This was a term applied by the Roman Catholic Church to its dodgier saints (though all are dodgy), such as Gregory, Bishop of Neo-Caesaria, and St Bernard, who was styled grandly as Thaumaturgus of the Western World, to frighten the collection out of old ladies of both sexes. Hence the term came to describe any conjurer or television beguiler of the simple and gullible.

INTESTACY
(b) The state, condition or fecklessness of not having made a will. "Have you heard about poor James's intestacy? I suppose he won't be able to have children now."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxf6! gxf6 (1 ... Rxf6 2 Qxd5+ and the rook at a8 goes); 2 Qg3+ Kf7; 3 Qg7+ Ke6; 4 Qe7+ Kxf5; 5 g4+ winning the black queen.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	16.79	15.29
Belgium Fr	49.15	44.85
Canada $	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.752	0.699
Denmark Kr	9.30	8.50
Finland Mkk	7.47	6.82
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	392.00	367.00
Hong Kong $	12.29	11.29
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1300	4.4800
Italy Lira	2532.00	2377.00
Japan Yen	174.90	150.90
Malta	0.589	0.534
Netherlds Gld	2.686	2.438
New Zealand $	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.26
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.32
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	88605.0
USA $	1.604	1.474

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5028 (-0.0077)
German mark
2.2414 (+0.0063)
Exchange index
83.1 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2766.3 (+4.2)
FT-SE 100
3734.7 (-13.7)
New York Dow Jones
5271.75 (+87.07)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20663.84 (+298.08)

[هكذا من الأصل]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

McNally makes a clean sweep

THE head of Compaq Computers in the UK, which this week announced record sales of £646 million, let slip that he once worked as a road sweeper on Tyneside. Joe McNally, 49, a Compaq vice-president, wielded a broom for a year after being sacked by his father from Miles Druce, the family steel firm in Gateshead. "I really enjoyed sweeping the streets, it was character-building. You were your own boss in a peculiar sort of way, but I think doing that made me more determined to succeed," he said.

"Dad sacked me after a row. We didn't really get on that well at work. I was in telephone sales and he was under pressure to make sure I was successful because people thought the only reason I was there was because I was the boss's son. When he sacked me, the only job I could get was sweeping." McNally junior eventually landed a job as a computer programmer and after a successful career with Honeywell he was headhunted in 1984 by Compaq the American company for its launch into the British market.

Invest-a-fon

IF Northern Ireland's success *in attracting* investment suddenly slips, blame BT. Would-be investors trying to ring Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board and relying on BT's new Ulster telephone directory — 70,000 copies have just been distributed at a cost of £1.5 million — find themselves talking to a Belfast taxi firm. However, Fon-a-Cab is not letting the Province down. "We've a highly skilled and motivated workforce. West Belfast — no problem. Americans are always very welcome," the cab firm told a genuinely Canadian-accented *Belfast Telegraph* reporter who rang, posing as a New York businesswoman.

Golden words

STRETCH limousines and tight security will be the order of the day in Whitehall on February 9. George Bush, the former US President, and Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian Prime Minister, are coming to town. Bush, honorary senior adviser to the international advisory board of Barrick, the North American goldmining group, is speaker at a Barrick luncheon. It will be the first time the board has met in London.

Chairman licked

RETIRING chairmen usually recount only flattering remarks when looking back. Not Jim Shippam, who, after 35 years, is leaving Shippam, the family paste, spreads and Mexican food company based in Chichester, founded 210 years ago and now part of GrandMet. His most treasured customer complaint, levelled against a tongue spread, is: "Your product has done nothing for the state of my tongue and has clogged up *my* toothbrush". Oh well, you can't please them all.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Societies guard against pre-float bids

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

THE Woolwich and Alliance & *Leicester Building Societies* are putting defensive strategies in place to guard against hostile takeovers before they are able to convert to bank status.

The Woolwich has already announced plans to seek a £3 billion stock market listing and Alliance & Leicester is widely expected next month to unveil plans for a £2.5 billion flotation.

However, analysts say that by announcing such plans, the societies are effectively putting themselves into play for a hostile bidder until their flotations are completed.

An adviser to one of them said the societies both knew who the likely predators were and had "built up ammunition against them". After flotation, the two will be legally protected from predators by rules that prevent any single shareholder from building up a stake of more than 15 per cent.

Speaking after the Woolwich announced its plans, Peter Robinson, its chief executive, said: "I accept that the period between announcement and flotation will stimulate interest in the Woolwich from companies that wish to *establish partnership or wish to absorb* us into their business along the lines of the Cheltenham & Gloucester/Lloyds Bank template."

Mr Robinson added, however, that the society wished to remain independent and had no need to transfer control of its customers, staff or 150-year-old franchise to a third party.

Neither society could easily use US-style "poison pill" tactics, because to frustrate a bidder offering value to members would, according to one observer, be seen as too risky "for legal, cosmetic and practical reasons".

However, he added that a more sensible approach was to present a convincing case that the society was following a credible strategy and that the conversion to bank status and flotation was the best way of delivering value to members in the short term and to shareholders in the longer term

£100m deal to control several well-known publishing names

Virgin lines up Reed books

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Virgin Group expects to sign a deal to buy Reed Consumer Books from Reed-Elsevier, its Anglo-Dutch parent, for about £100 million within the next fortnight, a source close to the deal said yesterday.

It will give Virgin control of Hamlyn, Heinemann, Methuen and Secker & Warburg, publishing rights to children's favourites such as *Winnie the Pooh* and *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and a roster of best-selling authors including Peter Ackroyd, William Boyd, Roddy Doyle and David Lodge.

Virgin, which will fund the entire purchase itself, has beaten off bids by venture capital groups believed to include Apax and Electra. The source denied reports that Virgin was now looking for venture capital backers, saying the agreed price "is well within its own financial resources". Apax is Virgin's *partner* in Virgin Radio and Electra helped it with the failed bid for Channel 5.

Frank Pearl and Raymond Chambers, the American businessmen now backing the *Duchess of York, are also* understood to have shown an interest in the Reed unit. Reports that Carlton Communications was making a bid were denied last week by the company.

CSFB, Virgin's adviser, which also helped on the *purchase of the MGM cinema* chain, is now carrying out due diligence and, all being well, a deal should be signed in mid-February. CSFB was unavailable for comment over the weekend.

Goldman Sachs, which is acting on Reed-Elsevier's be*half, received four or five bids* last Tuesday. The Virgin bid, led by Robert Devereux, brother-in-law of Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, and head of its entertainment business, was preferred because of price and ability to close the deal quickly, the *source said. He added:* "Virgin sees it as a tremendous opportunity to expand its publishing activities, taking over something that has not been managed as well as it could have been."

Reed Consumer Books was put up for auction last summer and Reed-Elsevier, which is quitting all consumer publishing in favour of professional publishing, initially hoped to raise up to £250 million. Those hopes faded as the major publishing houses backed off, discouraged by the company's flagging sales and a general malaise in the publishing industry brought on by the collapse of the net book agreement.

Reed-Elsevier *raised* £740 million with the sale of five newspaper and magazine publishing subsidiaries in November. Consumer Books is the last unit it wants to sell.

Virgin expanded its music book publishing arm, set up in 1980, when it bought W H Allen, the troubled publisher, in 1989. Virgin Books made a profit of about £1.5 million last year on sales of *£15 million. It* now has a growing biography and sports list.

Thomas the Tank Engine, a popular children's character, likely to join Virgin's stable

Devereux: leading bid

Last British Coal sale of housing

By Martin Barrow

BRITISH COAL is offering for sale the last package of its once vast housing portfolio, marking the end of its role as one of Britain's largest landlords.

Offers are being invited for a total of 251 properties, comprising tenanted and vacant properties, ground rents and sites of former dwellings.

The properties — in Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland — are in eight separate lots. Bids must be submitted by March 29.

The properties include modern and older detached, semi-detached, and terraced houses and bungalows. DTZ Debenham Thorpe is managing the sales.

British Coal formerly had more than 140,000 houses. During the course of privatisation, it has completed the sale of substantial property assets, including agricultural land. Property sales completed or nearing completion have realised almost £30 million.

Six property packages are on the market, or under offer. This latest package will be followed by 12 commercial and agricultural packages. A small number of houses, mainly in South Wales, will be offered for sale over the next six months.

RICS expects demand for shops to rise

RETAIL property is set to benefit from a rise in consumer spending and demand for more space (Carl Mortished writes).

Confidence in the sector has risen because of the anticipation of benefits from tax cuts and falling interest rates, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said.

RICS expects a 6 per cent growth in commercial property values but adds that the office market is still suffering from oversupply.

A survey of RICS members showed a net balance of 17 per cent more confident about the high street this year with confidence of 50 per cent in Central London.

BP signals oil revival in Alaska

By Martin Barrow

BRITISH PETROLEUM has signalled a significant revival in oil production in Alaska, boosted by new technology and economic incentives.

BP, which currently produces almost as much oil in Alaska as it does in the North Sea, estimates that a further five billion barrels of recoverable reserves could be added over the next ten years.

The estimate does not include oil under the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where drilling proposals have attracted fierce resistance from the Clinton Administration and environmentalists.

Richard Olver, deputy chief executive of BP Exploration, told a weekend conference held by the Alaska Support Industry Alliance that about 1 billion barrels of new recoverable reserves could be added through new uses of miscible gas, which bonds with oil to unlock it from rock formations, and other enhanced recovery technology.

An additional 4 billion barrels is possible from improved recovery at existing fields, such as Milne Point, the development of known new fields, such as North Star, and expected new discoveries near existing infrastructure, he said.

BP Exploration and Atlantic Richfield (Arco) are co-operators of Prudhoe Bay, the largest North Slope field. They are lead operators for all other North Slope fields and BP produces about one-half of Alaska's oil. Total recoverable reserves at Prudhoe Bay are an estimated 12 billion to 13 billion barrels.

Arco proposes to spend $1 billion in Alaska over the next five years, including $600 million for development.

Mr Olver said ambitions for "megaprojects", such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) oil production, or a trans-Alaska natural gas pipeline, were "long-term objectives, not quick fixes".

He added: "It doesn't seem to be a sensible strategy for Alaska to put all their hopes on ANWR, which is very uncertain and has a lot of exploration risks."

Accountants urge need for standards

By Robert Bruce

WARNINGS have been issued by all three arms of the Financial Reporting Council on the need to continue raising the standards of financial reporting.

In the FRC's fifth anniversary report, Sir Sydney Lipworth, the chairman, strongly urges the business community to follow the spirit of the rules and not search for loopholes.

Sir Sydney argues that such behaviour would trigger a need to create a detailed rule book, a development, which he says, "would be a major setback not only for financial reporting but also for the wider interests of United Kingdom industry and commerce".

In his section of the report, Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, gives warning against returning to the days of "where does it say in the standard that I can't do this?", which characterised poor financial reporting of the 1980s.

"It follows," he says, "that the number of rules and standards that appear, and the depth of detail that they contain, will be directly related to the ability and readiness of the auditing profession and prepare us to exercise judgement within the spirit of the standards, and to the demands for guidance and the need to stamp out abuses."

Edwin Glasgow, QC, chairman of the Review Panel, adds his warning in a section which says there is a quid pro quo for freedom from oppressive regulation. "This freedom "needs to be balanced by a responsibility that rests unequivocally on the shoulders of directors and auditors," he says.

He gives warning of a return to the days before the Financial Reporting Council when accounts were opaque and misleading. "Where no rule exists principles of openess and commonsense are paramount and must not be overruled", he said.

Lipworth: fears setback

Telecoms giants queuing up to ring changes

Sarah Cunningham on the impending battle for Europe

Europe's vast state-owned telephone companies are set for major changes this year as the Governments of Germany, France and Italy follow the British route to privatisation.

Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Stet, the Italian telecom holding company, are all planning major privatisation issues. The three countries, like Britain in the last decade, want to increase the numbers of small shareholders and to strengthen their stock markets. They are also painfully aware of the need to prepare their telecommunications sectors for the European Union open market in January 1998.

But there is a hitch. The international markets, which will be called upon for massive sums to support these issues, may not want that many telecommunications stocks. The last two major telecoms issues, by the telephone companies of Indonesia and Spain, both flopped.

This is causing concern among those arranging the next flotations. The big three European companies, flanked by many smaller national telecoms companies who want to privatise, have begun jostling for position.

Deutsche Telekom, which is making the largest offering this year in possibly the *largest privatisation ever*, is the best prepared. It is Europe's biggest telecoms company, and 15 per cent of it is due to be floated in November. This should raise *between DM10 billion and* DM15 billion. "Everyone knows this juggernaut is coming and they will steer clear of it," said one banker.

Another banker close to Stet *said this sort of* comment was made because Deutsche Telekom was hoping for "a clear run". He maintained that Stet would, despite political turmoil in Italy, make it to the market this year.

Doubts have arisen because Italy's last sell-off — ENI, the oil company — was a disappointment domestically, and because Enel, the state power company, is set for privatisation ahead of Stet. Although it is already quoted, the Government wants to sell its remaining 64 per cent all at once.

France Telecom, meanwhile, has had problems persuading its workers that they will not suffer when they lose their civil service status. Its recent privatisations have also been disappointments and many expect the France Telecom flotation to be put off until next year.

According to Trevor Nash, co-head of Barclays de Zoete Wedd's telecommunications advisory group, a lot more telecoms stock is on its way, particularly from developing *countries. He said:* "What is coming in '96 and '97 is a drop in the ocean compared to what there will be at the end of the decade."

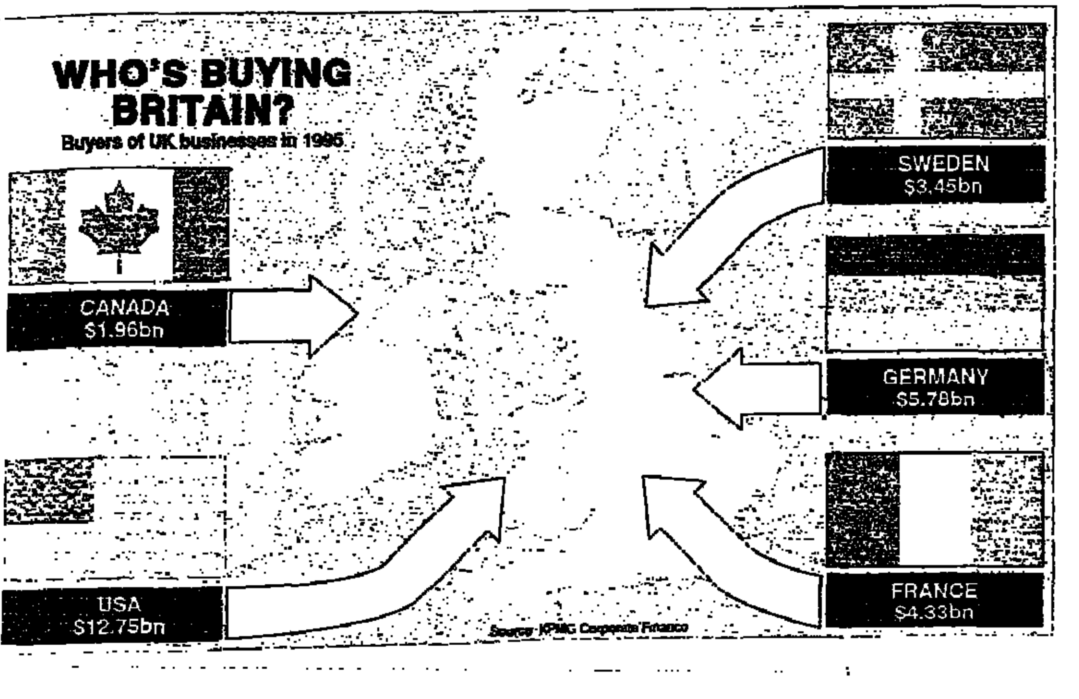
Over-supply should mean *lower issue prices*, but all the European companies want to raise as much money as possible to prepare themselves for open-market competition Telecoms technology is changing rapidly and expensively — expected investment in networks is mind-boggling. BZW estimates that it will total up to $1 trillion worldwide in the next five years. Deutsche Telekom is in particular need of cash because it has invested heavily in digitalising the east of the country, and because it knows that competitors are lining up in its home market. One of these is British Telecom, which last year formed a joint venture with Viag, of Germany, called Viag Interkom, offering services to business customers.

British Telecom sees itself as particularly well prepared for 1998. It has had a decade of getting used to competi*tion in the UK and has* formed other joint ventures in Spain, Italy and Sweden. It is also looking for a partner in France and hopes to find one in the first half of *this year. But it knows* Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom will be formidable competitors once they have slimmed down their workforces and invest*ed in marketing*.

Deutsche Telekom has managed to make itself extremely unpopular with the average citizen and potential investor by raising local phone call prices by as much as 156 per cent and forgetting to charge lower tariffs on New Year's Day.

Germany has yet to say how much of the issue it will aim at the local retail market and how much it will want taken up internationally. Germans tend to put their savings into investment funds and it will be a challenge to persuade them to buy stocks. "It all depends on pricing and on the country," one European equity strategist said. "If it is a country that is liquid and liked, it could do well."

BT sees itself as well prepared for the open market



Source: KPMG Corporate Finance

Bonanza year for foreign buyers

Alasdair Murray on the popularity of the UK as an investment destination

The UK remains the number one European target for overseas corporate investors, according to a report from KPMG Corporate Finance.

The value of businesses and equity acquired by foreign companies last year rose 150 per cent to £23.3 billion, from *£8.4 billion in* 1994. The surge of inward investment left the UK second only to the US as the most popular destination for investment worldwide.

But mergers and acquistion investment overseas by UK companies declined for the first time since 1991, falling from £22 billion in 1994 to £16.1 billion in 1995.

The UK figures were boosted by a large increase in the number of takeovers of more than £1 billion, but the total number of deals concluded also increased from 449 to 468.

***While the US was again the* leading investor, spending £8.6 billion last year. French and German companies quadrupled their stakes, with German companies investing £3.8 billion and French companies £2.9 billion.**

Sectors that experienced frenzied takeover activity attracted most investment, with £4.5 billion invested in banking and finance, compared with £308 million in 1994. Utility investments rose to £2 billion from £122 million and pharmaceutical companies attracted £5 billion, compared with £1.25 *billion in 1994*.

Richard Agutter, a partner in KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "1995 was a bonanza year for foreign buyers of British companies. We expect the trend to continue in 1996, with a further increase in the number of cross-border deals involving UK companies."

Deals by UK companies in France declined sharply, although investment in Germany increased three-fold to £1.2 billion. Algeria emerged as the third most popular country for investment by UK companies last year, attracting £1.15 billion, but the US remained the single most popular investment target, attracting £7.65 billion.

The total value of worldwide cross-border deals increased 17 per *cent to £152 billion. US companies* were net outward investors, recording £42 billion in deals.

Japanese companies also increased investment levels to £16 billion, while German companies recorded a 60 per cent increase in the value of deals overseas at £14 billion.

The rush into China subsided, with deals falling from £13.3 billion to £8.6 billion, although investments in Eastern Europe and Latin America increased.

Short steams up to shunt Railtrack into the sidings

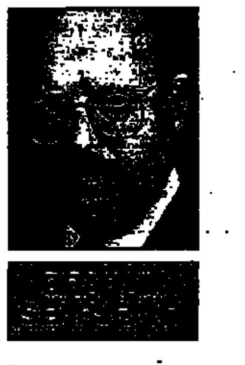
Many Labour Party policy stances are still way left of the New Labour image Tony Blair is trying to portray to middle-class voters. No wonder he wants to keep his options open until the last minute. In one area, however, Labour cannot wait. Railtrack is due to be floated on the stock market in May and British (nuclear) Energy later this year. Labour is dead against both. But it has yet to spell out its intentions.

Even after a bad week for Labour, the City expects Mr Blair to win an election within 15 months. Billions of taxpayers' money is at stake. If Labour sticks to dire but vague warnings, it will not stop the sales, but it will depress the price ordinary people would pay, far more severely than it did for water or electricity. City speculators, who can spot an empty threat at 50 yards, will pocket the "Labour discount". Labour should therefore give up the luxury of opposition for the responsibilities of a government in waiting. For taxpayers' sake, and its own, it must put up or shut up.

With that responsibility also goes power. On its present poll ratings, Labour could stop either sale if it really tried. The questions are how it would be done and whether Mr Blair's inner circle really want to. They will surely be answered soon. Labour knows it cannot afford to be seen as the speculator's naive friend.

When the Government announced the nuclear privatisation, the Shadow spokesman said Labour would stop it. His successors have not. Instead, they have been looking quietly at the state guarantees and insurance that prop up the industry's saleability. Props can be kicked away. But should they be? Over the past year, the structure of the power industry has changed so much that keeping a single, constrained, competitor in the public sector begins to look as crazy as private nuclear did.

Railtrack is more urgent. Labour's policy stance looks clear: commitment to a publicly owned, publicly accountable rail network. Yet over the weekend, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, had no trouble embarrassing Clare Short, his new Shadow, over Labour's apparent ambiguity. In reality, Gordon Brown has made clear that Labour would not spend missing billions to renationalise Railtrack (or anything else) if it were floated successfully. Labour is not into confiscation, so a threat to renationalise would, in any case, underwrite a sale structured to give big discounts to the public.



Threats of changes in structure and regulation to restore state control would sound punitive and anti-capitalist, something Mr Blair is anxious to avoid. They would necessarily also lack detail, increasing uncertainty in an industry already plagued by it. Labour does not want to undo the separation of train leasing or maintenance, and intends to let pre-let operating franchises run their lengthy course.

The practical choice is therefore simple. Labour must abandon its policy in all but rhetoric, perhaps merely including Railtrack in its utility levy. Or it must stop the sale. Clare Short is banking on the latter.

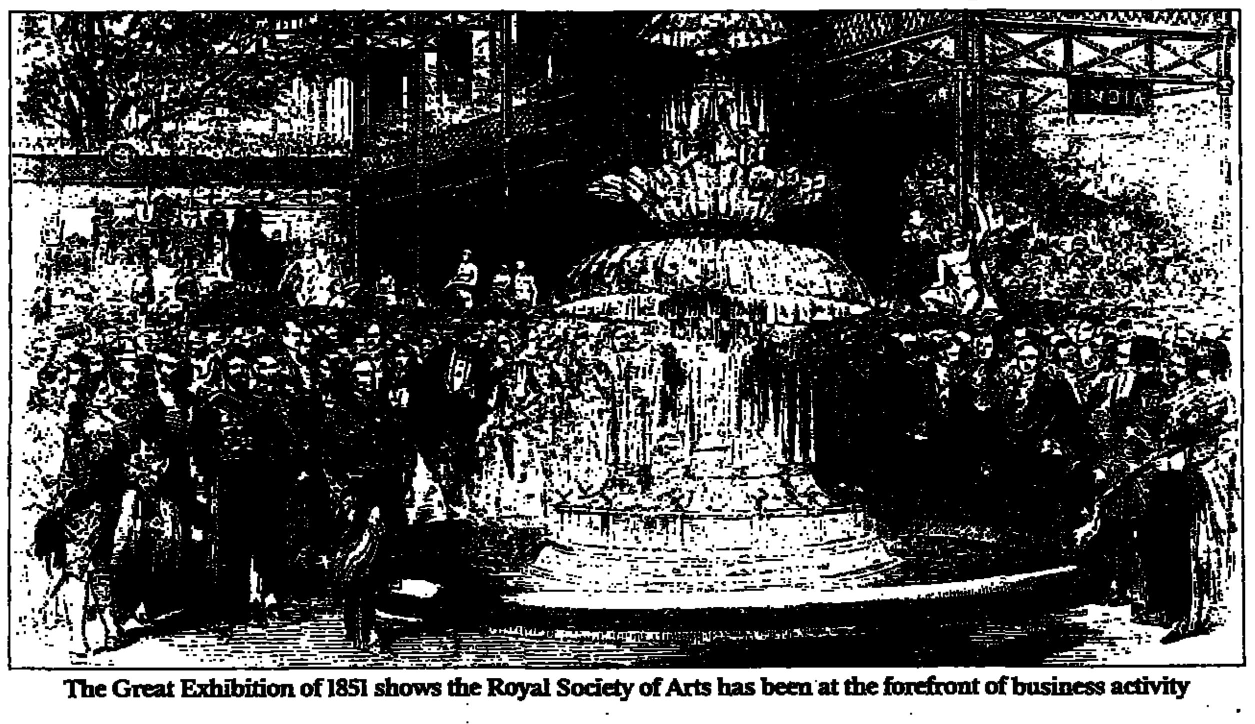
There is a financial and commercial case for keeping Railtrack in the public sector. Its profits and dividends will come wholly from taxpayer subsidies. If it is sold, annual public spending on rail will therefore rise steeply, at least until the long contracts run out and private-sector efficiency makes up the difference. Railtrack also offers an adjustment mechanism to help the complex new system bed down. That is why Roger Freeman, architect of rail reform before he joined the Cabinet, did not plan to sell Railtrack before the end of the process.

To stop the flotation cleanly, Clare Short would need to promise a simple, clear measure that would not upset the new rail system, but would forewarn potential investors that Railtrack shares would be worthless if Mr Blair is elected. For instance, it could legitimately levy all Railtrack's post-interest profits every year to defray subsidies from taxpayers. Railtrack shares are nothing without some prospect of dividends. Anything less clearcut could merely depress the flotation price. In theory, Sir George could still give the shares away to employees or lenders, but Labour could then afford to buy them back.

Tony Blair could reassure the City, and help taxpayers more, if he combined a stop signal for Railtrack with a go signal for British Energy, cutting out the political risk there. All that depends, however, on Labour's electoral credibility. If its poll ratings fall sharply between now and April, it might as well kiss its rail commitment goodbye.

Stakeholder economy at work

Tony Blair's concept is hardly new to business, says Philip Bassett



The Great Exhibition of 1851 shows the Royal Society of Arts has been at the forefront of business activity

When Tony Blair, the Labour leader, announced his aim of a "stakeholder economy", most political circles seemed confounded by what was announced as Labour's new Big Idea. But for many business leaders, stakeholderism is a familiar concept — even if they are uneasy about it being absconded with by politics.

Today will see a move to wrest it back for business when many of the UK's premier business leaders gather to examine the progress of stakeholding in Britain's economy at the level of the firm.

Since Mr Blair's Far East trip, stakeholding has been traced back to many progenitors. Some, such as the work of Professor John Kay, at the *London Business School, and* Will Hutton's book, *The State We're In*, were genuine. Others leapt on to the bandwagon.

Today's Royal Society of Arts gathering has as much and probably a great deal more claim than most to at least popularising in business circles the *notion of placing importance* on stakeholders as part of a so-called "inclusive" approach to running a company.

In 1993, the RSA supported by key British companies, including NatWest, Thorn EMI, IBM UK, National Grid, Kleinwort Benson, Blue *Circle, John Lewis, Unipart,* Cadbury Schweppes, Guinness and WH Smith, set up an inquiry into Tomorrow's Company: what kind of companies Britain needed to operate successfully in a world of rapidly-increasing global competition.

While some might have *been surprised at the RSA's* involvement, the society's full title — the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce — indicates its pedigree in the field, as does its background. Founded in 1754, among its projects was the Great Exhibi*tion of 1851* — a *showcase* for Victorian industrial prowess, and a model for the Millennium Commission.

The Tomorrow's Company report, published last summer, proposed the model of the inclusive company, which it saw as one being clear about its purpose and values, one able to measure its success — and one which "values reciprocal relationships and works actively to build them with customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders through a partnership approach".

"Inclusive", "values", "reciprocal", "partnership" and "stakeholders" are all key words in the new Labour lexicon. *But* the RSA inquiry enjoys cross-party support. Whatever the political argument, many leading British firms already consider themselves to be stakeholder companies — BT, NatWest, M&S, and BP among them. They do not consider it a soft option, or warm words. Stuart Hampson, chairman of the John Lewis Partnership — perhaps the ultimate UK example of a stakeholder company, with employees as partners owning most of the Waitrose, Peter Jones and John Lewis firm — will address the conference today, and he is clear on the toughness of the inclusive approach, insisting it is "not about soft options and ducking confrontation, but about the challenge of moulding together strong, efficient businesses with a shared focus on constant gains in competitive performance".

> ‘Leading firms already consider themselves to be stakeholder companies’

Mr Blair's elevation of the stakeholder idea to a governing principle of Labour's approach to social organisation, based on inclusion and social cohesion rather than what it charges has been *the exclusion* and social division of the Conservative years, raises the political stakes around the idea. So sensitive is it that when Adair Turner, the CBI's Director-General, mentioned it jokingly in his speech last week on pay it was seized on as evidence of a new business endorsement for new Labour.

Such sensitivity may make today's conference speech by Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, an examination of competitiveness and tomorrow's company at once robust, in any political rejection of Mr Blair's stakeholderism, and careful in its endorsement of the RSA's emphasis on the importance to British industry and the economy of improving the UK's competitiveness.

Many may have been taken by surprise by the concept of stakeholding, but members of the RSA inquiry were acutely aware of its sensitivities when they drew up their report. Some did not want to use the word at all, seeing it at the very least capable of being viewed as a return to the corporate state approach of the 1970s.

Others were sceptical from a different viewpoint, stressing that in America many companies have rejected the stakeholder concept because poorly performing firms were using it as a reason for why their performance was so poor.

Mark Goyder, of the RSA and director of the Tomorrow's Company inquiry, says that the broader idea of an inclusive company "will survive. It's robust — a powerful and abiding concept".

Business leaders who support stakeholding are pleased that the notion now has a wider currency because of Mr Blair, but are anxious that it should neither disappear once it has enjoyed its 15 *minutes* of political fame, nor be misinterpreted by *the wrangles of politics*, where business recognises that for the first time since 1979, some party other than the Conservatives may win.

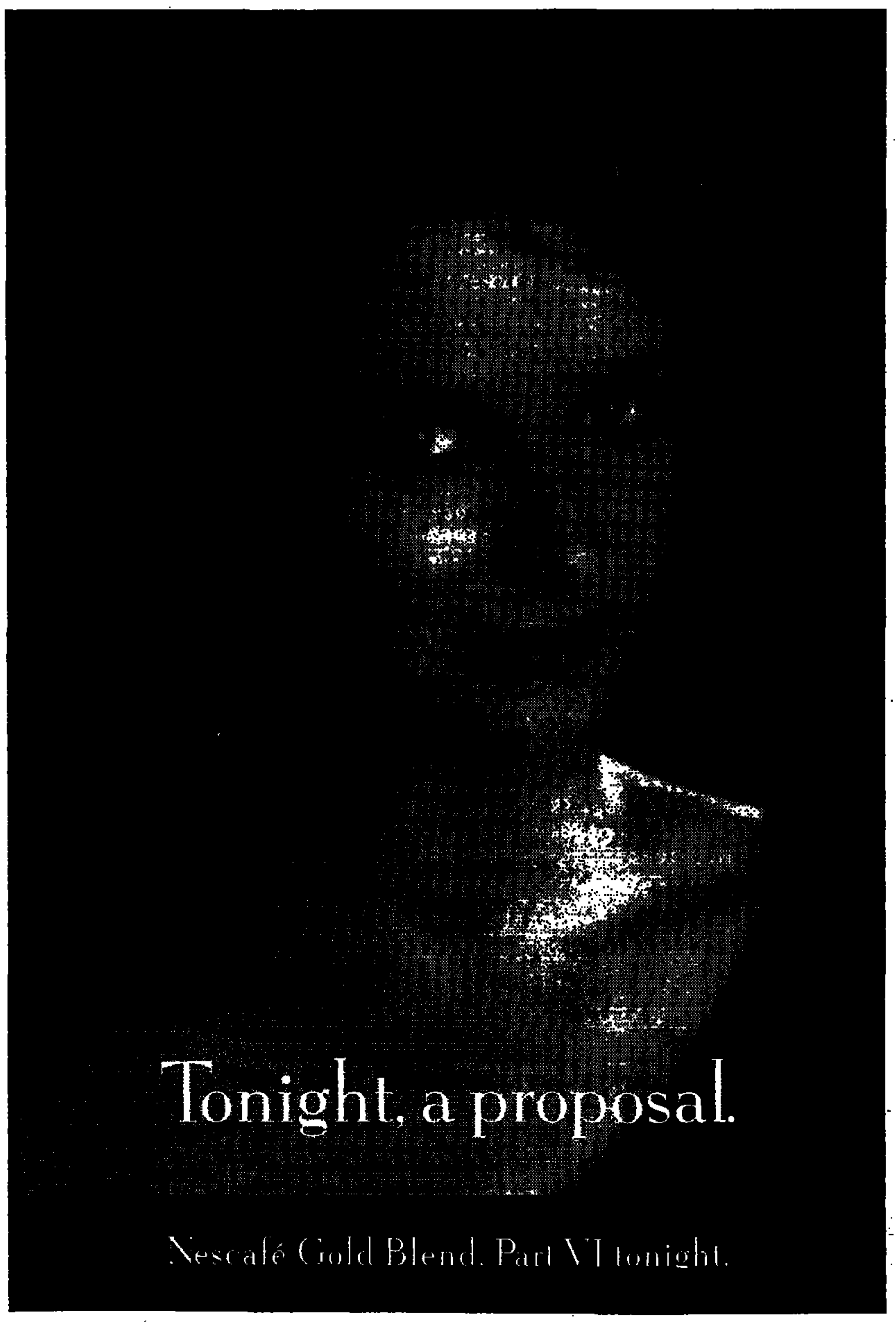
"Members of the inquiry team feel that this is a step forward," Mr Goyder says. "The substance was already there, but a new label makes people aware of that substance. But there is a concern: it would be a pity if this becomes part of an adversarial battle."

For managers such as John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, the importance of partnership, stakeholding and inclusiveness is much more important than short-term political advantage. Mr Neill will stress *Britain's competitiveness* gap, and put forward the remedies he has put into place at Unipart to bridge it. "We know that we can no longer compete on effort. In the global market economy, effort can be purchased at between a tenth and a hundredth of what it costs in the UK and therefore we need to inspire learning throughout our demand chain and engage the creativity and talent of all the participants in the pursuit of ever-reducing costs and ever-improving customer satisfaction."

Some business leaders, however, remain opposed to inclusiveness and stakeholderism. Stressing what they see as the legal responsibilities of directors to maximise value for shareholders — a view that will be challenged today by different legal opinion — they believe that the model for company success is much more likely to be the commercially competitive Hanson than the consensual John Lewis.

The inclusivists, the pro-stakeholders, accept that the Hanson model can and is successful. *But* they believe that the route for more companies is the one they favour. They both welcome the focus on their notions given by the political debate, and see it as both central to Britain's economic future — and a future which the UK's companies want.

"If you had said to us three years ago that the language that we use in the inquiry would become common currency in the public debate about the economy, we would have been pleased — but surprised," Mr Goyder says. "But there is a real sense of practical need here — and that's what's important."


Tonight, a proposal.
Nescafé Gold Blend. Part VI tonight.

An odd sprig of parsley

No Job Too Small. *Radio 4, 12.25pm.*

Stuart Maconie's and his regular team's investigations into life's little oddities skate on the thin ice of triviality. Sometimes, we can hear it cracking under their weight. In today's selection of minutiae, there is a fragile item about the life of Riley, and the inquiry into the superstitions of Hull trawlermen is little more than a tiddler. So what is there left that is worthwhile? Well, there is parsley. Maconie impishly likens it to lawn clippings with delusions of grandeur. Dirk from Amsterdam thinks it has "a nice sculpture". The herb elicits a splendid mixed metaphor from one woman who rejects another *woman's rhapsodic defence* of it. "When it comes to parsley," she declares "she over-eggs the pudding."

The Music Machine. *Radio 3, 5.00pm.*

Sarah Walker's odyssey is taking her through areas of America that promise to yield good musical "copy". I have not heard any of her five reports from New Orleans, starting tonight, but she has an excellent track record as a radio journalist, so the auguries are good. I presume that one of her tasks will be to establish whether that old cliché about New Orleans having a musician in every bar has any substance, and whether there really are children dancing at every street corner. I look forward in particular to Wednesday's instalment when she travels up the Mississippi in New Orleans's last remaining steamboat.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** In Concert **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Dance Band Days, *and at* **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Vaudeville Red-Hot and Blue (4/4) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews **11.30** News; Going Bananas **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.05** Actuality **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Great Scots! Ian Archer talks to Billy Bremner **8.00** The Monday Match. QPR v Newcastle or Chelsea in the FA Cup fourth round **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sadny Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Greenfield Collection **9.00** *News in German* **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** The Story of Western Music **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.00** News in German **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Omnibus **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** *Ed Stewart* **11.45** Development 96 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Folk *Routes* **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press **1.15** Man, Machine and Music **1.45** Health Matters **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Screenplay **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Haydn (Sonata in D) **7.00** Ken Russell's Movie Classics. Hitchcock (5/13) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Brahms (Clarinet Quintet in B minor); Sibelius (Lemminkainen and the Maidens of Saari, Legends); Widor (Toccata, Organ Symphony No 6); Vivaldi (Concerto in D for four violins); **8.05** Mussorgsky (Scherzo in B flat); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1 in D)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Brahms (Four Ballades, Op 10); Verdi, arr Muzio (Three Arias, Luisa Miller, Act 1); Weill (Berlin Requiem, excerpts); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 1 in B flat)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. *Artist of the Week*: Philip Fowke, piano, plays Rachmaninov (Polka de W R); Tchaikovsky (Hamlet); Gal (Vergangliches; Der Wiesenbach): Weber, arr Tausig (Invitation to the Dance); J.C. Bach (Organ Concerto No 5 in E flat); **11.00** Beethoven (Sextet in E flat); Franck (Symphonic *Variations*); *Weelkes (When* David Heard); Hans Gal (Voglein Schwermut); **11.45** Trad (Mirangula); Rameau (Pièces de clavecin)

12.00 Composer of the Week. Leos Janáček (String Quartet No 1, Kreutzer Sonata; Diary of One Who Disappeared, excerpt; Katya Kabanova, Act 2, scene 2)

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, from St John's, Smith Square, London. Chilingirian Quartet performs Gunther Schuller (String Quartet No 3); Mendelssohn (String Quartet in F minor)

2.00 Schools The Song Tree **2.15** Storybox **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama

3.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Barry Wordsworth. Saint-Saëns (Violin Concerto No 3 in F minor) (r)

3.45 The Organ: Musical Instrument or Agent of God? In the second of three programmes, Christopher Bowers-Broadbent introduces works by Vaughan Williams, Howells, Whitlock, Milner, McCabe, Bridge and Britten (2/3)

4.30 Misterioso. Ian Carr presents the third of a six-part series on Thelonious Monk

5.00 The Music Machine in New Orleans. See Choice

5.15 In Tune, presented by Natalie Wheen

7.30 BBC Philharmonic, from Studio 7, Broadcasting House, Manchester. Bach, arr Elgar (Fantasia and Fugue in C minor); Maxwell Davies (Strathclyde Concerto No 6); **8.15** Into the Garden. Hugh *Walters and Rachel Trickett* tour Rousham Park in Oxfordshire (r); **8.35** Elgar (Symphony No 2 in E flat)

9.35 Cultural Baggage. The car (6/20)

9.55 A Call to the Gods. The Tianjin Buddhist Music Ensemble plays ritual music from China

10.45 Mixing It

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio performs Haydn (Piano Trio in A); Brahms (Piano Trio in B)

1.00-2.00 Night School. Letterbox **1.20** Singing Together

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Letters from Over Here (4/6) **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Kate Saunders. With Athol Fugard, Jeffrey Masson, Simon Callow and Shere Hite

10.00-10.30 News; With Great Pleasure (FM only). The American feminist Gloria Steinem selects her favourite writing

10.00 Daily Service (LW *only*) from St German's Church, Cardiff

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: *Mother of Pearl*, by Mary Morrisey. Read by Niamh Cusack (8/12)

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm No Job Too Small. See Choice **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; An Odd Body. The first of a four-part detective series by Sue Rodwell. With Annette Badland and Gudrun Ure (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews an exhibition in Manchester on the life and work of William Morris

4.45 Short Story: Report on an Unidentified Space Station, by J.G Ballard. Read by Jack Klaff

5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jon Sopel **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News ***6.30 Just a Minute*** (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Darkest Eye, by Patricia Cumper. Jack Klaff stars as Henry, an Englishman who retires to Jamaica where he lives as a recluse with only his gardener, Hezekiah, for company. With Victor Romero Evans and Josephine Melville

8.45 Struggles of the Screenwriter. Kevin Jackson explores the history of screenwriting

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera, by Gabriel García Márquez. Read by Robert Powell (11/15)

11.00-11.30 A Man for All Music (FM *only*). *André Previn in the* last of three conversations with June Knox-Mawer

11.00 Education Matters (LW only)

11.30-12.00 The Water Gypsies, by A.P. Herbert, dramatised by Nick McCarty (5/6) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: The Drowned World, by J.G. Ballard. Read by Nicholas Farrell (6/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

A woman whose price is not above Ruby's

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Just occasionally I wonder if I am too soft for this game. There I am, ten o'clock on a Sunday night, and who is the person I feel sorriest for in the entire world? Imelda Marcos. She may have done a lot of things in her eventful life, but did any of them deserve going ten rounds with Ruby Wax?

Perhaps it was just my mellow mood, a surfeit of gentle whimsy brought on by the BBC's decision to run the delicious *Pie in the Sky* and *A Mug's Game* on the same evening. Hardly the ideal preparation for the world's only carnivorous chat show.

Whatever the reason, I wasn't ready for **Ruby Wax Meets**... (BBC1) and, far more importantly, neither was the former First Lady of the Philippines. She, whose appetite for hand-stitched leather is the stuff of legend, was about to be stitched up like a kipper.

Now, I dare say Marcos deserves everything she gets, including Ruby Wax. But I can't prove it; just as the American courts couldn't prove it and just as Wax can't prove it either. But proof is a minor obstacle on the path to prime-time humiliation. She might not have had the smoking cheque stub but Wax came armed with the famous statistics (2,600 pairs of shoes, 1,500 handbags, 1,000 ball gowns and one disputed bullet-proof bra), a mischievous cameraman and a copy of *Hello!*. It proved an unbeatable combination.

Hello! swung things. That particular issue had Wax on the cover, clutching some passing infant, and once Marcos had been presented with the evidence of her tormentor's international celebrity status they became "best friends". Suddenly, the half-hour interview (Wax warmed up by torturing an aide: "Do shoes play an important part in her life — do you think that's a bad first question?") turned into a three-day state visit.

Nothing was too much trouble. Marcos sang for her (quite badly but not badly enough to be really funny, so Wax resorted to silly camera work): she took her to church (really quite bad singing); introduced her to friends and senior employees (one of whom, praise be, was cleverer than Wax) and, finally, took her to parliament.

Wax repaid the hospitality with clever little questions and nasty bits of archive footage: "What do you think of abortion?" "We don't believe in any taking of life." Cue uncaptioned film of bloody bodies. "So who do you think shot Mr Aquino?" Cue film of Aquino being shot. Only Wax could play it so hard for laughs and still expect to be taken seriously.

We finished as we began — hunting for shoes. Presumably as encouragement, Wax had worn a different pair of heels every day. But Marcos was having none of it — she stuck resolutely to a pair of sensibly-heeled espadrilles. Finally, however, Wax got her reward — she was admitted to the inner sanctum, an attic where dozens of dresses hung in rows ("oh, Zsa-Zsa has this one") and the shelves of shoes extended into the far distance. As Wax succinctly put it: "Bingo."

Earlier, **A Mug's Game** (BBC1) had finished on a similar note of vulgar triumph. Con (Sean Harris), an exiled Belfast Roman Catholic with a tendency to shout, punched the air after a significant moment with Kathy (Michelle Fairley), a lapsed Scottish flute player with a tendency to disembowel salmon. All she had done was kiss him on the hand but it was enough. Things were about to get unexpectedly complicated.

Unexpected, because until that moment *A Mug's Game* had looked like rather a lot of other Scottish dramas, the sort of things that Bill Forsyth might knock off in a quiet moment. They're always welcome but there is no denying they're all a bit the same.

Lots of beautiful scenery, a cast of relatively unfamiliar faces, some improbably polished comic dialogue, one newcomer and what else..? Oh yes, there is nearly always a precocious child. In this case it was Kathy's son, whose life ambition, at this early stage, was to patent the world's first self-buttering toaster.

Taking the rest in reverse order — the newcomer was McCaffrey (Ken Stott), called back from Chile to revive the fortunes of the local fish farm, while the improbably polished comic dialogue was delivered by Denise (Katy Murphy), a woman as precise with her wit as with her filleting knife. "He glued my dovetail," she said proudly, in the wake of taking up woodwork classes to further her tireless pursuit of the male sex. "In some countries you have to get married to do that."

That just leaves the cast and Kintyre — both of which rose promisingly to the creative challenge. Where we go post-kiss — Kathy kisses Con, McCaffrey loves Kathy, Con hates McCaffrey — only Donna Franceschild, the writer, knows. But it should be worth finding out.

Whether it will be worth watching any more of **Paul Merton in Galton & Simpson's**... (ITV, Friday) is a far more debatable point. Teaming up one of the biggest comedy stars of the 1990s with two of the comic pioneers of the 1950s and 1960s must have looked a wonderful idea at the proposal stage but on the evidence of *12 Angry Men* it is not an alliance forged in comic heaven.

Comedy has moved on and Ray Galton and Alan Simpson's script needed more than the odd reference to O.J. Simpson or the privatised utilities to bring them up to date. As for Merton, he is more of a performer than an actor. Now, why couldn't I be that nasty about Imelda Marcos?

Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (41833)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (29460320)

9.10 Kilroy. Discussion series. (s) (2506981)

10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2602397) **10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (6750368)

10.30 Good Morning (84320)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (6896349) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (9027455)

12.50 Regional News and weather (13722610)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (37981)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (76653504) **1.55 The Rockford Files** (r) (4274788) **2.45 Wonders of the Wild** (6605310) **3.05 Timekeepers** (s) (5251165)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (r) (s) (1577441) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (s) (2586788) **4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies** (3514423) **4.35 The Genie from Down Under** (Ceefax) (9515165) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (4053287) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (7131078)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (764349)

N.I.: 5.35 Inside Ulster.

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (233)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (813) **N.I.:** **6.30** Neighbours **6.57** Inside Ulster News

7.00 Noel's Telly Years. Television quiz presented by Noel Edmonds. Sharron Davies, Alan Hanson, Paul Darrow and Isla St Clair remember 1978, the year they all found fame. (Ceefax) (s) (5900)

7.30 Watchdog. Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine (Ceefax) (s) (487)

8.00 EastEnders. Pauline is uplifted by Willy's plan of action but Mark is unconvinced. Roy hatches a plan as Frank and David come to blows (Ceefax) (s) (1320)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Gary is surrounded by house guests and is forced to take action (Ceefax) (s) (8405)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3894)

9.30 Panorama. From Cradle to Grave: Paying for the Future. Concluding the investigation into the erosion of the welfare state (Ceefax) (537784)

10.10 Match of the Day — the Road to Wembley. Des Lynam introduces highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth round match between QPR and Chelsea. (s) (594962)

10.45 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Featuring a review of *Heat*, starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. Plus report with Kenneth Branagh and Laurence Fishburne on the set of *Othello* (Ceefax) (s) (905523) **N.I.:** **10.45** Country Times **11.15** Film 96 with Barry Norman **11.45** Film: Private Life of Sherlock Holmes **1.45am** Weather

11.15 FILM: A Show of Force (1990) starring Amy Irving and Andy Garcia. A tense political thriller set on the island of Puerto Rico. A television journalist looks danger in the face when she attempts to unravel a conspiracy while investigating the death of two young activists. Directed by Bruno Barreto (Ceefax) (s) (361610)

12.45am Weather (6811382) **WALES:** **12.45am** News and weather (6811382)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Business and Work

7.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (6840455)

7.15 Lassie (r) (3964233) **7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (7028788) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5090639)

8.30 Songs of Praise from Dumfries (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1522959)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus **10.00-10.25** Playdays (6759639)

1.40 Storytime (s) (64986558) **2.00 Joshua Jones** (r) (86210875)

2.10 Tennis. Highlights of the Australian Open (5295788)

3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2771349) **3.05 Myrna Loy: So Nice to Come Home To** (r) (7926271) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (5974875)

4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (726)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (610)

5.00 Esther. Solitude (s) (3338)

5.30 The Village. A fly-on-the-wall look at everyday life in the 800-strong Hampshire village of Bentley (756320)

5.55 My Village. A portrait of Ashton, Northamptonshire (481165)

6.00 Space Precinct. Futuristic police drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (122726)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Science-fiction adventure (r) (237417)

7.30 Hidden Empire: A Son of Africa. (Ceefax) (s) (639)

8.00 Horizon: Nature's Numbers. (Ceefax) (s) (349356)

8.50 Trade Secrets. Car mechanics reveal their tricks. (Ceefax) (s) (129788)

Malcolm McDowell as Barratt (9.00pm)

9.00 Our Friends in the North. A drama serial following 30 years in the lives of four Geordie friends. Now it's 1967 and Geordie is a prince of the Soho strip clubs, although his affair with Barratt's mistress is not the wisest career move. In Newcastle, Mary's investigations into who built her crumbling high-rise block lead her to an old flame. (Ceefax) (s) (6091523)

10.10 The Travel Show Essential Guides. A guide to sporting breaks. (Ceefax) (s) (272726)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (838078)

11.15 The Brains Trust. Mary Ann Sieghart, an assistant editor of *The Times*, is joined by the scientist Richard Dawkins, the philosophers Nancy Cartwright and Paul Helm, and the historian Theodore Zeldin (s) (702349)

11.55 Weather (601981)

12.00 Midnight Hour with Sir Bernard Ingham. Political chat (s) (89818)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Hidden Empire: A Son of Africa
BBC2, 7.30pm

Olaudah Equiano is not likely to be a name familiar to schoolchildren, or, for that matter, to many adults. As Dr Ian Duffield of Edinburgh University points out in the programme, British history has so often been constructed as the triumph of the greatest race the world has ever known — the white British people. Equiano was not only black but a slave. But unlike many other Africans who were abducted from their villages in the 18th century and transported to the Caribbean, he did not live and die in obscurity. He bought his freedom by winning a case against a brutal master, came to London and married an English woman. He became involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. Moreover, he left an autobiography, on which this reconstruction fruitfully draws.

Horizon: Nature's Numbers
BBC2, 8.00pm

A criticism of this otherwise admirable science series, notable for its longevity and seriousness of tone, is that it tends to let the experts go unchallenged. A theory is expounded rather than debated. But this is not an accusation that can be made about tonight's film, which follows a team of world-respected biologists to the Bolivian rainforest. Their mission is to check on endangered species and to see how they might be saved. Some scientists talk of an extinction crisis, based on the hypothesis that the number of species an area can support is a direct function of its size. Reduce a rainforest by 50 per cent and 15 per cent of its species will be lost. Other experts reject this number-crunching as simplistic and flawed and suggest that the position is not as bad as the doomwatchers claim. This *Horizon* bristles with controversy.

Classic Ships: Britannia Rules
Channel 4, 8.30pm

John Peel, always a reassuring voice-over, narrates a six-part series from the team that has already given us classic cars, motorbikes and trucks. The pitch is not only to the technically minded but to the general viewer who may not know much about ships but can appreciate the wider social picture. Tonight's film is about yacht racing and covers the life of the original Royal Yacht *Britannia*. Commissioned by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1892, her new aerodynamic hull was a trail-blazer in yachting design and she won 24 prizes in her first season. She continued to race for more than 30 years until Edward VIII, who failed to share the family passion for sailing, had it scuttled. Archive footage and the memories of sailing veterans evoke the golden age of a rich person's hobby.

Cutting Edge: Whistleblowers
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Working as an electrician on a North Sea oil-rig, David Harding spotted a potential safety flaw with the fire pumps. He raised the matter through his union and his fears proved correct. But he was marked down as a troublemaker. When, four years later, he blew the whistle on another safety hazard, he was victimised by his company and colleagues and eventually made redundant. A family man with two small daughters, he became depressed and killed himself. Harding's tragedy is recalled by his widow. The other whistleblowers featuring in this disturbing film have thankfully survived to tell their own stories. But the point is forcefully made that speaking out against abuses in the workplace not only takes courage in itself but can cost jobs and wreck lives.

Peter Waymark

[illegible]

6.00am GMTV (2300252)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4853146)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6736783)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1500184)

10.35 This Morning (57741894)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6885233)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (6199455)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9175349)

1.20 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (32527320)

1.50 Home and Away (Teletext) (76657320)

2.20 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (18509639)

2.50 Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (4036165)

3.20 News (Teletext) (2788639)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2770610)

3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (2501097) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (7185320) **3.50 Disney's Goofy** (7181504) **4.00 Scooby Doo** (r) (2314691) **4.15 Harry's Mad** (Teletext) (s) (648726) **4.45 Art Attack** (Teletext) (s) (9506417)

5.10 The List (6659320)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (206900)

6.00 Home and Away. Steven searches for Dodge (r) (Teletext) (s) (753894)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (856455)

6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (729097)

6.30 Regional News (Teletext) (981)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (s) (7368)

Mother's boy Todd Boyce (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Maud has unwelcome visitors, and Audrey's son arrives from Canada (Teletext) (165)

8.00 World in Action. The parents of Leah Betts, who died last year after taking an Ecstasy tablet, travel to Amsterdam to investigate Holland's liberal attitude to illicit drugs (Teletext) (s) (3788)

8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna. Paul investigates the healers who claim to have paranormal powers (Teletext) (s) (5523)

9.00 Call Red. A young man dies as a result of a delay caused by a hoax (Teletext) (s) (1894)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (97788)

10.30 Regional News (536720)

10.40 Band of Gold. Business in the Lane is bad for Rose, Anita becomes homeless and Carol's fears for her own safety prove too much (r) (Teletext) (s) (189261)

11.40 Tales from the Crypt (483879)

12.10 Bushell on the Box (s) (5799295)

12.40 Football Extra (2540585)

1.25 The Crime Hour (2962214)

2.25 International Athletics (r) (974586)

4.10 Music Box Profile (84554295)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (14189)

5.00 An Invitation to Remember (r) (82092)

5.30 Morning News (90671)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

5.10pm-5.40 Ready Money (6659320)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (911707)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (6893252)

12.55 Chain Letters with Vince Henderson (6174146)

1.25 Coronation Street (32526691)

1.55 Home and Away (76656691)

2.25 Gardeners' Diary (18680558)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4036165)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6659320)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (32349)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (6174146)

1.25 Chain Letters (32526691)

1.55 A Country Practice (64889691)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (3691788)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6659320)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (911707)

11.40 The Evening Standard British Film Awards (986504)

12.45am Football Extra (2549856)

1.30 Bushell on the Box (66030)

2.00 The Crime Hour (6665837)

2.50 Film: Dear Sarah (8609905)

4.15 Jobfinder (3891127)

5.20 Asian Eye (3305092)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (6174146)

1.25 Home and Away (32526691)

1.55 A Country Practice (76658691)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers. Rural Australian police drama series (5201349)

5.10 Home and Away (6659320)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - the Listings (498455)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (829)

6.30-7.00 Country Ways (981)

11.40 The Shape of Things (483879)

5.00am Freescreen (82092)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27504) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (67815) **9.30 Schools** (44184) **9.30 Geography** (3994504) **9.45 Ffenestri** (3095287) **10.00 Sang Di Fang** (7992504) **10.15 Learn Sign Language** (4120558) **10.20 Place and People** (7996320) **10.40 The English Programme** (7478078) **11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica** (9066875) **11.15 The Mix** (8217252) **11.30 Penawdau** (5902436) **11.45 Living with Technology** (5990691) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (90829) **12.30 Camberwick Green** (48900) **1.00 Slot Meithrin: Caffi Sali Mali** (9892252) **1.35 Film: Blossoms in the Dust** (74025436) **3.30 Wired World** (287) **4.00 Backdate** (894) **4.30 Gardens Without Borders** (338) **5.00 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd 889** (3598368) **5.15 5 Pump: Ffeil** (4961252) **5.25 5 Pump: Tochabent** (3924813) **5.30 Countdown** (558) **6.00 Newyddion** (119436) **6.15 Heno** (653271) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm 889** (952784) **7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (299417) **8.00 Joni Jones: Y Llythyr 889** (7558) **8.30 Newyddion** (3165) **9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet** (9436) **10.00 Sgorio** (5178078) **11.05 Roseanne** (495962) **11.35 NYPD Blue** (162707) **12.30am Divine Magic: Magic of the Mummies** (34030) **1.30 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank. (r) (Teletext) (s) (5480417)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (27504)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (67815)

9.30 Schools Geography (3994504) **9.45** Book Box (3095287) **10.00** Stage Two Science (7992504) **10.15** Learn Sign Language (4120558) **10.20** Place and People (79963) **10.40** English (74780) **11.05** Encyclopaedia Galactica (90668) **11.15** The Mix (8217252) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (5902436) **11.45** Living with Technology (5990691)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (90829)

12.30pm Sesame Street (13417) **1.30 Wowser** (76679542)

1.55 The Decision (r) (17732900)

2.10 FILM: Fallen Angel (1945, b/w). Dana Andrews stars as a press agent who marries Alice Faye for her money, and becomes the prime suspect in a murder inquiry. Otto Preminger directs (414146)

4.00 Backdate (Teletext) (s) (894) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (338)

5.00 Love in the Afternoon (Teletext) (s) (7981)

6.00 The Cosby Show. Cliff (Bill Cosby) persuades his father to rejoin his old band. Jazzman Art Blakey makes a guest appearance (r) (Teletext) (271)

6.30 Hollyoaks. Ollie has to face the music (Teletext) (s) (523)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (978702)

7.55 The Slot (389813)

8.00 Screaming Reels. The aptly named Nick Fisher discovers some of the ways fishermen are tempted to cheat in competition (Teletext) (7558)

Yachts ahead of the race (8.30pm)

8.30 Classic Ships: Britannia Rules (Teletext) (s) (3165)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Whistleblowers (Teletext) (9436)

10.00 FILM: House of Cards (1993). Emotional drama starring Kathleen Turner and Tommy Lee Jones. A mother clashes with a child specialist when he diagnoses her daughter as being autistic. Directed by Michael Lessac (Teletext) (44456487)

12.05am The Sexual Imperative. The third of six programmes asks what triggers reproduction (r) (Teletext) (s) (9233818)

1.05 FILM: Bermuda Mystery (1944, b/w) starring Preston Foster and Ann Rutherford. A private detective is hired to investigate a mysterious death. Directed by Benjamin Stoloff (7582301)

2.15 The "Other" Americas. Exploring the influence of Western economic models in Latin America, beginning with Mexico (r) (s) (304479) Ends at **3.15**

4.00 Schools: Eureka! History Through Art, 1-3 (s) (7253160) Ends at **4.45**

SATELLITE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg (42610) **8.30** Press Your Luck (36691) **9.00** Court TV (50271) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (50184) **10.30** Concentration (56455) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (79981) **12.00** Jeopardy! (47707) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (75078) **1.00** The Waltons (63233) **2.00** Geraldo (34320) **3.00** Court TV (3707) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (2638707) **4.15** Undun (4312962) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1977) **6.00** The Simpsons (1078) **6.30** Jeopardy! (8558) **7.00** LAPD (5788) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4542) **8.00** Central Park West (35748) **9.00** Police Rescue (13252) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (23639) **11.00** Law and Order (67148) **12.00** David Letterman (6704011) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6098214) **1.30** Sibs (16160) **2.00** Hit Mix (6210818)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.

6.00am Sunrise (9232287) **9.30** The Book Show (8739813) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (4560417) **1.30pm** CBS News (49959) **2.30** Parliament (18726) **3.30** Parliament (3436) **6.30** Tonight (95951097) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (623148) **11.30** CBS News (68146) **12.30am** ABC News (53450) **1.30** Tonight (3410437) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (7509276) **3.30** Parliament (82547) **4.30** CBS News (97382) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (42301)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Woman Rebels (1936) (38981) **8.00 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933)** (58900) **10.00 Smoky (1966)** (79894) **12.00 The Prince of Central Park (1977)** (48523) **2.00pm Rugged Gold (1993)** (85261) **4.00 Max Dugan Returns (1983)** (2691) **6.00 Ivana Trump's for Love Alone (1994)** (82542) **7.30 Close-Up: Elijah Wood on North** (9610) **8.00 Family of Strangers (1993)** (22900) **10.00 Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story (1993)** (94639) **12.00 Trust in Me (1994)** (532547) **1.35am Pretty Poison (1968)** (8478837) **3.05 Death Match (1994)** (9535285) **4.35 A Woman Rebels (1936)** (9409127)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

1.00am A Woman's Vengeance (1947) (49487) **8.00 From Hell to Victory (1979)** (98982) **10.00 Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone (1983)** (600964) **11.40 Silent Movie (1976)** (648287) **1.10-3.00am Supervixens (1975)** (523585)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Top Cat and the Beverly Hills Cats () (36523) **8.00 Gallavants (1988)** (58542) **10.00 Touch of Truth (1994)** (77436) **12.00 Where the Red Fern Grows (1974)** (46165) **2.00pm The Mudlark (1950)** (86243) **4.00 Gallavants (1988)** (3953) **6.00 Where the Red Fern Grows (1974)** (25097) **8.00 Golden Gate (1993)** (20542) **10.00 Blink (1993)** (85981) **12.00 Bloodstone: Subspecies II (1993)** (61671) **1.30am Exposed (1983)** (389383) **3.10-6.00 Romantic Comedy (1983)** (25431769)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Umbrella Tree (31525436) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (36538578) **7.00** New Winnie the Pooh (84670405) **7.30** Ducktales (33137342) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale (49374691) **8.30** Wonderland (49373962) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (31534184) **10.00** Umbrella Tree (60329310) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (49393726) **11.00** Muppet Babies (69652610) **11.30** Pooh Corner (69880639) **12.00** Quack Attack (49384078) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (30648310) **1.00** FILM: Flower Drum Song (80083558) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (75880418) **4.00** Quack Attack (35894815) **4.30** Ducktales (39284879) **5.00** Chip 'n Dale (20886829) **5.30** Danger Bay (78230959) **6.00** Tarzan (28939982) **6.30** Dinosaurs (34234374) **7.00** Boy Meets World (20773165) **7.30** Thunder Alley (38834338) **8.00-10.00** FILM: 16 Days of Glory (20651165)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Skating (80539) **9.00** Skiing (81252) **11.00** Boxing (17165) **12.00** Motorsports (57707) **1.00** Football (97900) **4.00** Olympic Magazine (5813) **4.30** Tractor Pulling (83078) **5.30** Boxing (77981) **6.30** Football (8542) **7.00** Speedworld (22786) **9.00** Pro Wrestling (16875) **9.30** Athletics (68436) **10.00** Football (47233) **11.00** Golf (73418) **12.00-12.30am** Car on Ice (81214)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Gillette World Sport Special

Panasonic Honours Sky's Champions of Sport '95 (76320) **10.00** Skill Sailing (86707) **10.30** World of Speed and Beauty (24981) **11.00** Snowboard Tour (34271) **11.30** Football Special (937436) **2.00pm** Panasonic Honours Sky's Champions of Sport '95 (58349) **4.00** Superbowl Highlights (2469) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (7894) **6.30** Tartan Extra (8146) **7.00** FA Cup Fourth Round - Live (88120829) **10.15** Sky Sports Centre (195184) **10.45** Superbowl Highlights (513271) **12.45-3.15am** FA Cup Fourth Round (931092) **2.45** Sky Sports Centre (525740)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Cricket Hall of Fame (2055469) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (4364287) **12.00-1.00am** Golf: The Open Championship 1980 (5609479)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Entertainment **6.15** Ulf Ekman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (7969252) **7.55** As the World Turns (9694271) **8.50** Peyton Place (9986977) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7362610) **10.10-11.00** Another World (9921441)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00pm Globetrotter (4189252) **11.30** La Lore (2801436) **12.30** Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian (5530320) **1.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (7242829) **1.30** Sky Travel Guide (5539691) **2.00** Trailside (8882417) **2.30** On Top of the World (2710184) **3.00** Getaway (8694252) **3.30-4.00** Kids Down Under (2665829)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Battle of the Bulge (4170504) **5.00** The Lost Art (8895504) **6.00-7.00** Biography (5555839)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Science of Star Trek (4564417) **8.00-10.00** Star Trek: The Motion Picture (4577981) **1.00am** Science of Star Trek (2805108) **2.00-4.00** Star Trek: Motion Picture (5319498)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (6174900) **9.30**

Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn in *Adam's Rib* (TNT, 9.15pm)

Country (7921523) **10.30** Our House (6170184) **11.00** The Painted House (5554165) **11.30** Running Repairs (5555894) **12.00** Julia Child (6161436) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (7532368) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8697320) **1.30** On the Edge (7531639) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (2058707) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1328271) **3.00** Two's Country (2060542) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1307788)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (8607707) **7.30** Neighbours (8619542) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6180707) **8.30** EastEnders (6169078) **9.00** The Bill (6256558) **9.30** The Sullivans (7523610) **10.00** Secret Army (8615726) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8695962) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6163894) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7534726) **1.00** EastEnders (8606078) **1.30** The Bill (7533097) **2.00** The Sullivans (61785523) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2904726) **3.00** Angels (2082900) **3.30** Eldorado (1309146) **4.00** Casualty (35183417) **5.05** Larry Grayson (77083894) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (8432610) **6.25** EastEnders (8193784) **7.00** Eldorado (2054981) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1318894) **8.00** Get Some In (2143829) **8.30** Alas Smith and Jones (2059436) **9.00** Casualty

(4326417) **10.00** The Bill (9354436) **10.35** Top of the Pops (7102523) **11.20** Everybody's Equal (7766207) **11.50** Film: Revolution (25251639) **2.05-3.00am** Shopping (2298090)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (43691) **6.30** Pugwall (61523) **7.00** Ready or Not (93610) **7.30** California Dreams (89417) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (72542) **8.30** Tiny TCC (55396900) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (49313417) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (8833) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (3961) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (2368) **4.00** California Dreams (1875) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (3397)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (5001146) **6.15** Blue, Child of the Earth (936368) **6.45** Toucan Tex (9752639) **7.00** Betfink (7804320) **7.05** Grimmy (6578894) **7.45** Rugrats and Doug (924523) **8.15** Aaahh! Real Monsters (9892788) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (39890) **9.30** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (43558) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (72225) **11.00** Children's BBC (20639) **12.00** Magic School Bus (13875) **12.30pm** Grimmy (41146) **1.00** Global Guts (24455) **1.30**

Visionaries (40417) **2.00** Children's BBC (65078) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (7165) **3.30** Mighty Max (9252) **4.00** The Ferals (1287) **4.30** Rugrats and Doug (7271) **5.00** Sister Sister (2610) **5.30** Mirror Mirror (8523) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (5436) **6.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (6788) **7.00** The Odyssey (9146) **7.30-8.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8900)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1319523) **4.30** Ambulance! (1315707) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2145287) **5.30** Terra X (1402287) **6.00** Invention (1329900) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1920392) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (1316436) **8.00** Invention (2061271) **8.30** Weather (2057078) **9.00** The Pacific (4420287) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4327146) **11.00-12.00** Great White! (8614097)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Crawling Hand (7938813) **2.00pm** The Saint (7926078) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2064368) **3.30** The Adventures of William Tell (1327542) **4.00** FILM: Private's Progress (2068184) **6.00** The Adventures of Robin Hood (1323726) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (7320338) **7.30** The Green Hornet (1303962) **8.00** The Saint (4331349) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (4344813) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Squeeze Play (5552707)

PARAMOUNT

8.00pm Entertainment Tonight (8894) **8.30** The Odd Couple (3859) **9.00** Dear John (29349) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (54610) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (14504) **10.30** Saturday Night Live (76788) **11.30** Kids in the Hall (73233) **12.00** I Love Lucy (54160) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (47382) **1.00** Dear John (43740) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (67818) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (26522) **3.00** Saturday Night Live (30276) **3.30-4.00** Kids in the Hall (64818)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5067523) **7.00** Kilroy (8189455) **8.00** Esther (9700320) **8.30** Go for It (9709691) **9.00** The Victorian Kitchen (3649436) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2645349) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (6952558) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8291707) **11.55** Brookside (6823894) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7228784) **1.30** Crosswits (8873504) **2.00** Agony Hour (2467875) **3.00** Live at Three (1494436) **4.00** Infatuation UK (1939707) **4.30** Crosswits (3531388) **5.05** Lingo (82901788)

5.30 Lucky Ladders (1942271) **6.00** Bewitched (1949184) **6.30** Brookside (2548417) **7.05** Food and Drink (2464558) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (1442900) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (5562271) **9.00** FILM Women on the Ledge (74927639) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (7923504) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (6178417)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty (5726) **5.30** The Adventures of Tintin (913788) **5.55** The Adventures of Batman (589097) **6.30** Catchphrase (2504) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (5962) **7.30** The Fall Guy (70788) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (4207) **9.00** The Mixer (93436) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (96523) **11.00** Neon Rider (82558) **12.00** The Fall Guy (73996) **1.00pm** The Adventures of Batman (89566) **1.30** Rhoda (60914) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (87627) **2.30** Neon Rider (69634) **3.30** Rhoda (57914) **4.00** Big Brother Jake (21127) **4.30-5.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (56289)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (63981) **7.00** 3 from 1 (9499788) **7.15** Awake on the Wildside (3225233) **8.00** Music Videos (253146) **11.00** The Soul of MTV (90523) **12.00** Greatest Hits (91165) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (50095558) **2.45** 3 from 1 (8240726) **3.00** Cinematic (1933184) **3.15** Hanging Out (1558271) **4.00** MTV News at Night (8169287) **4.15** Hanging Out (8079610) **4.30** Dial MTV (9417) **5.00** Hit List UK (65252) **7.00** Greatest Hits (99610) **8.00** MTV Unplugged with Eric Clapton (88558) **9.00** Real World London (67523) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (92894) **10.00** MTV News at Night (9933368) **11.15** Cinematic (461165) **11.30** Reggae Soundsystem (50417) **12.00** The End? (86914) **12.30am** Night Videos (9777108)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (7161900) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (8032146) **12.00** Heart and Soul (5551813) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (5537233) **2.00** Ten of the Best: A personal choice (2809487) **3.00** Into the Music (2653252) **6.00** VH-1-2-3 (5557097) **7.00** VH-1 for You (4566875) **8.00** VH-1 Album Chart (4586639) **10.00** Backtrack: 1964 Part 1 (4840177) **10.30** Planet Rock Profiles (8255207) **11.00** Tommy Vance is the Nightfly (8847542) **1.00am** Ten of the Best (2807566) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm** on **satellite, 24 hours on cable** including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (86496962) **8.30** Public Demand (70575981) **9.30** Campus (53670981) **10.00** Urdu Serial: Chand Grehan (42105417) **11.00** Khana Khazana (42159455) **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (42150184) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (22254946) **12.30pm** Khubsoorat (53681097) **1.00** FILM Darya Dil (62915639) **4.00** Mirza Ghalib (11501610) **4.30** Akbar Birbal (11507894) **5.00** Zee Zone (37805287) **5.30** Gujarati Serial: Narsaiyo (11598146) **6.00** Chakravyuha (11691287) **6.30** Zee and U (11519639) **7.00** Parampara (57563455) **8.00** News (37721271) **8.30** Hindi FILM: Malamaal (91858436) **11.00** Yule Love Stories (42141436) **11.30-12.00** Baran Masaley (78324875)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm King's Row (1942) (60253977) **9.15 Adam's Rib (1949)** (90060894) **11.15 Go West (1940)** (88738097) **12.45am Doughboys (1930)** (42204450) **2.15 Pick a Star (1937)** (33741721) **3.30-5.00 Go West** (99124027)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Haitink — Berlioz and Stravinsky's the Flood **8.00** Richard III **12.00-3.00am** Mozart's the Magic Flute

BBC WORLD

News on the hour.

6.15am Money Programme **9.25** Food and Drink **12.05pm** Assignment **1.15** World Business Report **1.30** Newshour Asia Pacific **2.25** Multimedia **3.15** Money Programme **4.25** The Clothes Show **5.30** Tomorrow's World **8.05** Money Programme **9.25** Holiday **11.25** World Business Report **12.10am** Newsnight **4.05** Panorama **5.00** Newsday

THE WEEK AHEAD 35
LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF HEALTH FROM HANSON

BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

CLEAR THE LINE 38
GRAHAM SEARJEANT URGES LABOUR TO DECIDE RAIL POLICY

P&O's Bermuda move cuts UK merchant fleet by 10%

Sterling: talk of £1bn sale

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S precarious status as a maritime nation has been dealt another severe blow with the decision by P&O to re-register five of its biggest container ships under the Bermudan flag of convenience.

The move, which will come into effect in March or April, will cut the tonnage of the British-registered and owned fleet by nearly a tenth, reducing it to a new low of less than 3 million gross tonnes (grt). Britain's merchant navy, once the world's biggest, accounting for more than half of all ships at sea and 80 per cent of the world's merchant navy — has gone into accelerating decline over the past 20 years.

In 1976 there were 1,614 British-owned and registered ships of 500grt, with a total tonnage of 50 million GRT. By 1995 this had dwindled to just 253 ships, putting Britain in 30th place in the world maritime league table with just 0.5 per cent of world tonnage.

The P&O move will be seen as particularly damaging because of the company's historic role as a leading British shipping line — it remains the single biggest operator of British registered ships — and because of the size of the vessels involved. The flagging-out of the five *Liverpool Bay* class P&O container ships, *Cardigan Bay*, *Kowloon Bay*, *Liverpool Bay*, *Osaka Bay* and *Tokyo Bay*, will result in the loss of 90 British and New Zealand ratings' jobs. The officers will remain British. The ratings will be replaced by Fillipinos, who will accept salaries of about half the British level, saving P&O about £500,000 a year. The total saving of flagging out could be £1.25 million.

Numast, the ship officers' unions, has written to Viscount Goschen, the Shipping Minister, demanding urgent government intervention to halt the slide in the British fleet. "It really is time the Government stopped tinkering at the edges, and listened to, and acted on, what we in the industry are saying before it is too late. It is wholly irresponsible to ignore the likes of not just us in the industry, but the all-party Employment, Defence and Transport Select Committees," wrote Brian Orrell, the general secretary.

The union and the Chamber of Shipping, which represents shipping employers, are calling for the abolition of employers' national insurance contibutions for seafarers, and 100 per cent tax allowances for investment in new ships. Graham Allen, Labour's shipping spokesman, said he was "shocked" at the scale of the decline in the British fleet and said Labour was considering "a package of investment expansion, training and employment protection measures" to reverse the trend.

P&O said trading conditions in the bulk container market had never been more competitive and that the company was forced to look at where it could make savings. The ships would remain under the red ensign, because Bermuda is a British dependency and safety would continue to be regulated from Britain. The 90 ratings losing their jobs represent about 20 per cent of those in the container fleet but only a small fraction of those on its cruise liners.

The flagging out operations forms a part of a huge restructuring of the P&O group due to unfold over the next year, which could see the entire bulk carrier fleet sold. The company's shares jumped last week on City speculation that it could be the next break-up bid target. Lord Sterling, chairman and chief executive, is thought to be planning a £1 billion disposal programme that would see about a third of its worldwide property interests, Bovis Homes and its bulk cargo division sold off.

Complaints double about British Gas

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COMPLAINTS about British Gas more than doubled last year and rose to their highest level since privatisation.

Almost 50,000 customers took their grievances to the Gas Consumers' Council, the industry watchdog, in 1995, a rise of 102 per cent over the previous year. Of those, 37,172 had turned to the council after getting no satisfactory answer from British Gas.

Ian Powe, director of the council, said: "British Gas had a rotten year and so did too many of its customers. But we remain impressed by the high engineering standards and can-do attitudes that characterise the company's front-line staff despite their difficulties."

The final level of complaints is likely to be much higher, for the figures do not cover the Christmas period when the company was forced to pay compensation to customers with service contracts who were left without heating. The council claims its resources are being stretched by the increase in complaints.

British Gas, which withdrew last year from the Government's Charter Mark scheme devised to recognise excellence in public service, has seen sharp rises in complaints about every aspect of its business. But customer accounts and the service division have been singled out for acute criticism.

Consumers appear to have shown a greater willingness to complain following the adverse publicity that surrounded the remuneration of the company's chief executive, Cedric Brown, and its chairman, Richard Giordano.

In the service division, the subject of much controversy after the company failed to deliver contract service on time to many customers and suspended non-contract work in some areas, complaints increased by average 118 per cent. The council said the 3-star service contract, described by British Gas as "a contract for peace of mind", was "oversold and underdelivered".

Complaints about contract servicing to central heating rose 195 per cent to 2,191, while the number of customers encountering problems with spares jumped 179 per cent to 1,100. Grievances against Transco, the pipeline business that has been separated from the main body of British Gas in preparation for competition in gas supply, also escalated.

A recurring source of complaint has been the practice of British Gas engineers who disconnect the supply if they cannot cure a leak, then leave the work to be completed by the service division or an outside contractor.

Complaints about TransCo's delay in carrying out work have increased 188 per cent, while disatisfaction with its work on meters has risen 182 per cent.

British Gas's retail business also attracted more complaints when the company appeared unable to handle the increase in business. Grievances about delays in supplying appliances soared 689 per cent to 773, while delays in fitting rose 156 per cent to 581. The number of customers with account disputes rose 119 per cent to 10,419.

Roy Gardner, executive director for supply, retail and service at British Gas, said: "Restructuring of the UK gas business to meet the demands of competition and regulation has caused problems with our level of service to customers." He added that severe weather had further tested resources.

Mr Powe said the council was working with British Gas on closer links between them to try to find remedies for consumer dissatisfaction.

Customers seem to have shown a greater willingness to complain after the adverse publicity over the pay of Cedric Brown, standing, and Richard Giordano

Rival bid looms for Lloyds Chemists

BY SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYDS CHEMISTS, the subject of a £500 million agreed bid from Unichem, is this week expected to be faced with a counter offer from Gehe, the German drugs wholesaler.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Gehe's merchant bank adviser, is said to be finalising details of a rival offer. Analysts expect that any resulting offer from the German company will top Unichem's bid.

The City's expectation of a rival bid is reflected in the share price of Lloyds Chemists, which, at Friday's closing figure of 426p, is above the value of Unichem's offer.

Gehe has been rapidly expanding its drug wholesale business in recent years and is now the largest drugs wholesaler in Europe. The company, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, and in which Dresdner Bank is a shareholder, entered the UK last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH. In 1993, it won a contested bid for OCP, a French company, in which it paid £325 million for a 95 per cent stake.

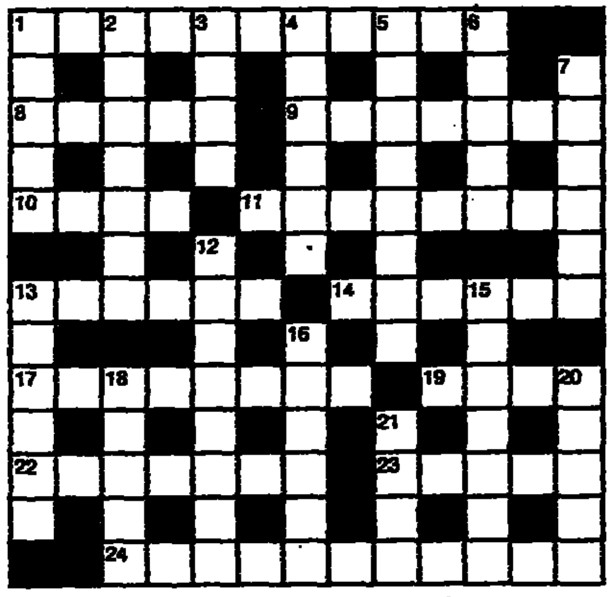
Unichem and AAH both have 30 per cent shares of the UK drugs wholesale market and neither company will be keen to see Lloyds Chemists in the other's hands.

The acquisition of AAH also gave Gehe more than 300 pharmacies, the fourth-largest chain in the UK. Lloyds Chemists consists of 924 pharmacies.

Gehe is said to be prepared to pay 450p, which compares to Unichem's agreed offer of 325p in cash plus four Unichem shares for every three Lloyds Chemists shares held.

Gehe's bankers are said to have requested from Samuel Montagu, Lloyds Chemists's financial advisers, the detailed information made available to Unichem.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 690

ACROSS
1 Lacking compassion (4,2,5)
8 Difficult: too bad! (5)
9 Arrest (7)
10 Practical joke (4)
11 George and Ira — (8)
13 Discussion (6)
14 Enforce (6)
17 Broken chord (mus.) (8)
19 Crustacean: apple (4)
22 Into which one disappears wholly (4,3)
23 On the qui vive (5)
24 Gin (7,4)

DOWN
1 Emerge from egg (5)
2 Plant: murmur: nonsense (7)
3 Twinge (4)
4 Element: 5-cent piece (6)
5 Pretender (8)
6 Wife of brave (5)
7 Centre of nut (6)
12 Motionless (water) (5)
13 Shortage (6)
15 Johnny-come-lately (7)
16 Transfix (6)
18 King of Troy (5)
20 What relay-runners hand over (5)
21 Falls off course: skin disease (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 689
ACROSS: 3 Man-of-war 7 Forage 8 Evades 9 Portia 10 Cavour 11 Lewd 13 Snide 15 Gnat 17 Ragout 18 Toecap 19 Dvorak 20 Nibble 21 Ridgeway
DOWN: 1 Morose 2 Wasted 3 Melanin 4 Obviate 5 Wide open 6 Restrict 11 Labrador 12 Wedgwood 13 Sausage 14 Destiny 15 Goes by 16 Arable

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Pay increases running above inflation rate

Criticism of 'fat cats' curbs top salaries

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DIRECTORS of large companies last year received pay increases just above the inflation rate, a survey published today shows, suggesting for the first time that public criticism of "fat cats", particularly of generous share option deals, may have curbed the salaries of Britain's top earners.

Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the firm of consultants, found that the average base salary rise for chief executives and directors of large companies — those with turnover of more than £1 billion — was 3.8 per cent last year, compared with an inflation rate of 3.2 per cent. This resulted in an average basic pay of £325,000, rising to £374,000, including bonuses. Pay rises have been nearer 6 per cent in recent years, the firm said.

"It is possible we are seeing the first signs of pay restraint at top level in reaction to the adverse publicity on directors' remuneration," Andy Christie, the consultancy director responsible for the survey, said.

Public criticism has focused on high pay awards and generous bonuses and share option schemes at privatised utility companies. Most recently, it was reported that David Jefferies, chairman of National Grid, was sitting on paper profits on his share options worth £525,000, to go with a salary of £320,000.

Directors on the boards of subsidiary companies, whose salaries are not always disclosed in company accounts, failed to show similar self-control and their basic salaries rose about 8 per cent last year. Their managing directors' pay rose to an average £87,775 (£101,350 including bonuses) and board members received an average £59,220 (£67,552).

"They are either performing better or they are under less restraint," Mr Christie said.

The top directors' belt-tightening is not expected to go much further: "Personally, I doubt their pay rises will ever go below inflation," Mr Christie said.

David Jefferies has paper profits of £525,000 on options

'Most firms awarding 3.5% rises'

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements are running ahead of inflation, a new analysis of the first pay deals of the new year suggests today.

The examination of current pay trends is the first since fresh controversy was prompted when Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, last week forecast a return to rising real wages in the longer term as the economy grew.

After his statement, which rested on the idea of inflation, pay and growth largely being in equilibrium at the moment rather than pay and prices chasing each other, the independent study from Incomes Data Services says that settlements are rising more quickly than retail price inflation.

Looking at pay deals so far in January, IDS says that the initial picture shows that deals are "maintaining their level despite the fall in inflation".

IDS says that a majority of companies are currently awarding rises of 3.5 per cent, a fair notch ahead of the present inflation rate of 3.1 per cent. Three-quarters of the current range of deals were also ahead of the known inflation rate at the time they were negotiated — usually in about November for a January settlement date.

Most deals, the study says, are clustered in a 3-4 per cent range, with only one in ten agreements monitored at below that level. In January 1995, pay awards were running at 2.5-3.5 per cent.

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